The Inter-Agency Council on Child Abuse and Neglect is comprised of Los Angeles County City, State and Federal Agencies, as well as community organizations, and individuals from the private sector. ICAN was established in 1977 by the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors as the official county agent to coordinate the development of services for the prevention, identification and treatment of child abuse and neglect.

ICAN's work is conducted through the ICAN Policy and Operations Committees. The policy committee includes heads of agencies and board appointees. The operations committee is comprised of designated child abuse specialists from each member agency. ICAN has numerous standing and ad hoc committees comprised of both public and private sector professionals with expertise in child abuse. These committees address a host of critical issues such as: review of child fatalities, including child and adolescent suicides; children and families exposed to family violence; development of systems designed to promote better communication and collaboration among agencies; prenatally substance affected infants; pregnant and parenting adolescents; abducted children; sexually exploited children; and grief and loss issues for children in foster care and siblings of children who are victims of fatal child abuse.

The ICAN Data Sharing Committee is comprised of representatives from ICAN agencies focused on the prevention, identification and treatment of child abuse and neglect. This inter-agency/multi-disciplinary community network, serving the needs of abused and at-risk children, provides valuable information and data to ICAN regarding many child abuse related issues. The committee meets and produces an annual report on the State of Child Abuse in Los Angeles County, reporting each agency's data, and giving visibility to information about child abuse and neglect in Los Angeles County.



## STATE THE STATE OF CHILD ABUSE in Los Angeles County 9

Compiled from 2020 Data







# Inter-Agency Council on Child Abuse and Neglect

Los Angeles County • ICAN Data/Information Sharing Subcommittee (626 455-4585 • Fax (626) 444-4851 • www.ican4kids.org

Data Report 2022.indd 1





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## REPORT COMPILED FROM 2020 DATA THE STATE OF CHILD ABUSE IN LOS ANGELES COUNTY

Cover art was selected from the ICAN Associate's annual Student Poster Art Contest winners and finalists.

Children's names in case examples have been changed to ensure confidentiality.

Current Page Cover art by Irene Vazquez, ICAN Student Poster Art Contest Front PageCover art by Briza Valderrama, ICAN Student Poster Art Contest Back Page Cover art by Emilia Feinberg, ICAN Student Poster Art Contest



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State of Child Abuse



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Art by Nyonnie Mack, ICAN Student Poster Art Contest





This unique report, published by the Los Angeles County Inter-Agency Council on Child Abuse and Neglect (ICAN), with the work of the ICAN Data/ Information Sharing Committee, features data from ICAN member agencies about activities primarily for Calendar Year (CY) 2020 and Fiscal Year (FY) 2020/21. although some agency data may vary from this. The report includes some information about programs, but is intended primarily to provide visibility to data about child abuse and neglect in Los Angeles County and information drawn from that data. Much of the report assumes the reader has a basic knowledge of the functions and organization of ICAN and its member agencies. For those unfamiliar with ICAN and its member agencies, please refer to Section IV of this report.

The ICAN Data/Information Sharing Committee continues to be committed to applying our data resources to improve the understanding of our systems and our interdependencies. We believe this understanding will help support us all in better serving the children and families of Los Angeles County.

Section I of the report highlights the inter-agency nature of ICAN by providing an executive summary of the reports, and recommendations that cross over agency boundaries. Significant findings from participating agencies are included here, along with a discussion and analysis of identified trends. This annual inter-agency analysis of data collection continues to evolve, and we look for new opportunities to view, from varying perspectives, the inter-agency linkages in our child welfare system.

(Section II includes Special Reports from the ICAN Child Abduction Task Force and the ICAN Hospital Network Project).

Section III includes the detailed reports that are submitted by ICAN member agencies for analysis and publication. In response to the goals set by the Data/Information Sharing Committee, departmental reports continue to evolve. Many departmental reports now include data on age, gender, ethnicity, and local geographic areas of the county, allowing for more meaningful analysis and comparisons. Their reports reflect the increasing sophistication of our systems and the commitment of Data Committee to meet the challenges of measuring and giving definition to the nature and extent of child abuse and neglect in Los Angeles County.

Section IV provides an historical and organizational

summary of ICAN. Included here are the community partners affiliated with ICAN, ICAN Associates, and the Los Angeles Child Abuse Council Coordination Project members.

In this thirty-fifth edition of The State of Child Abuse in Los Angeles County report, we are again pleased to include the artwork of students from the ICAN Associates Annual Child Abuse Prevention Month Poster Art Contest. The contest gives 4th, 5th, and 6th grade students an opportunity to express their feelings through art, as well as to discuss child abuse prevention and what children need to be safe and healthy.

The Data/Information Committee is grateful to ICAN Associates staff John Solano for his technical direction and expertise in the production of this publication.





This is the 35th annual State of Child Abuse in Los Angeles County Annual Report. This publication provides visibility to data about child abuse and neglect in our County, and the agencies that serve the children and families within the child protection system of care.

The following is a brief summary of Selected Findings and agency report data. The full agency reports provide a more detailed analysis of programs as they relate to child abuse and neglect; included are year to year comparisons.

## DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN AND FAMILY SERVICES

There was a 24% decrease in the number of children referred during CY 2020, 117,886 compared to 162,263 in 2018. During the last three years the number of referred children has continuously decreased. Despite the decreasing numbers, the number of referred children represents 5.1% of the child population  $(0-18\ years)$  in Los Angeles County.

There was an average of 9,824 children who were referred to DCFS per month in CY 2020. Of these, a monthly average of 7,269 children (74%) required an in-person investigation.

Infants and toddlers are particularly vulnerable to maltreatment. Children ages 0–2 accounted for just under 17% of all referred children, while they are 12% of the child population. This age category also represented 19% of the total In-Home and Out-of-Home services caseload; second only to those children 5-9 years of age, representing 26% of the total DCFS caseload.

In 2020 there were 9,647 referrals (8.2%) that had an identified concern of domestic violence; somewhat less than the 11,560 noted in 2019.

More than half of the domestic violence related referrals (60%) were for General Neglect, followed by Emotional Abuse (25%) both categories down from 2019.

48% of children involved in domestic violence related referrals were 0-5 years of age, while 28% of children were 6-10 years.

General Neglect continues to be the leading reported allegation among the Emergency Response referrals received (39%); up slightly from 36% in 2019.

At risk due to sibling abuse represented 18% of the children referred in CY 2020, the second largest referral category. These referrals also decreased (8%) from 39,326 in CY 2017 to 36,184 in 2018.

Hispanic children continue to be the largest of all ethnic groups represented among DCFS children and account for just over 58% of the total In-Home and Out-of- Home Services caseload (22,452). African American children continue to be at 23.4% while representing just 7.5% of the total child population.

38,622 children received in-home and out-of-home services in 2020; a 10% increase from 2019. The breakdown of caseload by program type is as follows: 38% Family Maintenance; 27% Family Reunification; 27% Permanent Placement; 2.3% Emergency Response; and, 6.5% Supportive Transition (the newly designated extended foster care services provided to Assembly Bill 12 (AB12) non-minor dependents.

Transition aged youth is defined as youth ages 16-21. Many in this age group, especially transition aged youth with mental health challenges or disabilities, require special attention because they are not ready for self-sufficiency upon exiting the child welfare system. Research shows this demographic faces serious life challenges and difficult life outcomes. This is why the Department invests in programs such as the Independent Living Program.

In 2020, 427 transition aged youth exited the child welfare system. 41.5% of these youth were 21 years old while 40% were 18 years of age. 29.3% of the youth that exited lived in Supervised Independent Living, 12.2% lived in a FFA Certified Home, 20.6% lived in a Guardian home, 12.2% in an FFA Certified Home, and 12.2% in a Short Terms Residential Therapeutic Home. Reaching the age of majority accounted for 57.4% of the youth that left the child welfare system.

Up from prior years, Independent Living Placement children account for 8.2% of the total children in out-of-home placement. This placement category is designed for youth who are in foster care beyond 18 and up to 21 years of age via the Extended Foster Care program, provided by AB12. The number of youth in this placement category reflects an increase from 1,012 at calendar year end in 2018, to 1,557 in 2020.

State of Child Abuse



#### CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

The Central Index recorded 1,090 child abuse reports from Los Angeles County in 2020. This represents approximately 18% of the state's total reports. This is a marked decrease from 2019 when 1444 cases, comprising 20% of the State's total came from Los Angeles County.

The abuse determinations were as follows:

- a) 365 (20%) Physical Abuse
- b) 275 (21%) Mental Abuse
- c) 119 (9%) Severe Neglect
- d) 312 (21%) Sexual Abuse
- e) 19 (26%) Willful Harming and/or Corporal Punishment.

State-wide, authorized agencies submitted 6,115 reports to the DOJ for entry into the CAC in 2020, a decrease of approximately 9% from the 7,131 submitted in 2019.

CACI data reflects 2 child death reports state-wide in 2020, down from the 4 reported in 2019. Los Angeles County submitted 0 of the death reports.

## COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH

During FY 2020/21, the Coordinated Services Action Team (CSAT) coordinated screening and mental health assessments in over 97% of children who were eligible (newly detained DCFS children, newly opened and non-detained, and existing DCFS cases). Approximately 95% of children screened (15,010) were positive, and 97% of those were referred to mental health services. 95% of those received the prescribed mental health service activities within the required timelines.

MAT (Multi-disciplinary Assessment Team) is a collaborative assessment process offered through DCFS and DMH. Newly detained children and youth in the child welfare system with full scope Medi-Cal and in/out of home placement qualify for a MAT Assessment; each is eligible to receive an age appropriate assessment of their medical, dental, educational, caregiver and mental health needs within 45 days of referral.

In FY 2020/21, 3,849 children and youth had a MAT assessment completed. Of this sample, 2,231 (58%)

were between the ages of 0 - 5 at the time of their initial detention.

Intensive Services Foster Care (ISFC) is an intensive mental health treatment program that seeks to reduce placement instability and provides an alternative to congregate care settings, characterized by many residents and professional staff. In FY 2020/21 there were 97 ISFC placements; 48% male, 52% female; 3% between ages 0-5, 61% between ages 6-12, 35% between ages 13-17, and just 1% ages 18-20.

Across the camp programs, there is a Multi-Disciplinary Team (MDT) process wherein children and youth participate in MDTs which include DMH, Probation, LACOE, parents, outside school districts, and other key players. These MDTs occur within 10 days of admission to a camp (initial MDT); as needed during their incarceration to address a range of issues (as needed MDT); and 30-45 days prior to release from camp (Transitional MDT). This process has greatly enhanced the coordinated case planning for each youth during their camp stay and upon release to their communities and families.

During FY 2020/21 based upon the average daily population of the camps, DMH clinical staff treated close to 100% of the total population.

While the overall population in the juvenile halls decreased in 2020, the number and percentage of youth requiring mental health treatment increased substantially. Additionally, while face to face, onsite services continued throughout, 2020/21, there were numerous unit quarantines throughout the COVID pandemic and telehealth was implemented in the living units to sustain the level of mental health services required.

#### OFFICE OF THE LOS ANGELES CITY ATTORNEY

In 2020 Los Angeles City Attorney's Office reviewed a total of 1,413 investigations involving misdemeanor ICAN-related offenses, down from the 1,622 reviewed in 2019, and the 1,599 reviewed in 2018. However, it is worth noting that in 2017, 1,189 were reviewed as 5 years of decreases in these cases came to an end.

Of the 1,413 cases reviewed, 391 were investigated. There were 244 criminal investigations involving child sexual abuse and exploitation; 60 of those cases were filed and prosecuted with 37 resulting in a disposition, and 29 resulting in guilty pleas or convictions following jury trials.



Project LEAD (Legal Enrichment and Decision-Making) is an effective law-related education program for 5th graders in public schools. Established in 1993, the 20-week cirriculum places prosecutors and other criminal justice system professionals inside the classroom for one hour per week to help students gain and understanding of ter legal system and the reasons behind laws. The cirriculum is designed to teach students techniques for resolving conflict and resisting peer pressure. Other lessons promote tolerance and respect for diversity. Project LEAD students gain important protective factors, which help them develop the skills and experience to evaluate challenging situations and make good decisions.

During the 2020/21 school year, 120 facilitators, taught the Project LEAD cirriculum to approximately 1,300 students, in 46 classrooms at 31 public schools throughout Los Angeles County.

#### **DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE**

In 2020, a total of 4,344 cases relating to child abuse and neglect were submitted for filing consideration against adult defendants. This marks a continuing decrease seen over the past 3 years from the 5,089 cases that were submitted in 2017, and significantly less than the high of 5,551 noted in 2014.

Of these, charges were filed in 45% (1,955) of the cases reviewed. Felony charges were filed in 51% (992) and misdemeanor charges were filed in 49% (963) of these matters.

Of those cases declined for filing (a total of 2,389 for both felonies and misdemeanors), cases submitted alleging a violation of PC §288(a) (sex abuse) accounted for 26% of the declinations (619), down 15% from the 728 noted two years prior.

Consistent with prior years, 77% of the adult cases filed involving child abuse, the gender of the defendant was male in 2020.

Convictions were achieved in 87% of cases involving adult offenders. Defendants received grants of probation in 73% (689) of these cases; State prison sentences were ordered in 24% (229) of the cases; and less than 1% (6) of the defendants received a life sentence. Each of these data categories is down from prior years.

#### **DEPENDENCY COURT**

In 2020, 14,667 children were brought into the

juvenile court system under new WIC §300 petitions; this is a decrease of 2,295 from the 16,962 children that entered in 2019. This is the highest single year decrease on record, and easily attributed to the pandemic.

For the eighth consecutive year the number of new WIC §602 (delinquency) petitions decreased, and significantly so. In 2020, 3,061 WIC §602 petitions were filed compared to 4,869 in 2019. The continuing drop in 602 filings is broadly attributed to continuing efforts to divert low-risk offenders from the juvenile justice system.

For the 4th time in the past 5 years, in 2020, the number of children exiting the dependency system was, although by a smaller margin than previous years, less than the number of children entering. In 2020, 14,667 children entered the Dependency system, and 14,011 children exited the system.

Less children adopted out of the system in 2020; 669 compared to 1,922 in 2019, this reduction of over twelve hundred adoptions may be attributed to the COVID pandemic.

#### LAW ENFORCEMENT

In 2020, the number of child abuse investigations conducted by LAPD and LASD was down for both agencies.

#### **LAPD**

The Abused Child Section, Juvenile Division, was created to provide a high level of expertise to the investigation of child abuse cases. Juvenile Division has city-wide responsibility for follow-up investigations of all complaints involving physically and/or sexually abused children who meet particular criteria, including: homicide by family member of a child under 11; undetermined deaths under 11; deaths under 11 wherein neglect or endangerment by parents placed the child at risk; cases of hospitalizations for unexplained critical injury; hospitalizations for failure to thrive/sever neglect; and, all other child abuse/physical aggravated assault involving a suspect 18 years of age and older.

LAPD investigated a total of 2,481 child abuse cases in 2020, compared to 3,019 cases in 2018 (2019 data not available), a decrease of 18%. 1,812 (73%) of those investigations involved sexual abuse.

#### **LASD**

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The Sheriff's Special Victims Bureau (SVB) is one seven highly specialized bureaus in LASD's Detective Division. SVB investigates all allegations of physical abuse and sexual abuse of children, under the age of 18, which occur within the LASD jurisdiction. SVB detectives and sergeants also provide guidance to all LASD station personnel 24 hours a day regarding child abuse matters and adult felony sexual assaults.

LASD conducted 3,597 child abuse investigations in 2020, down 16% from the 3,258 investigations in 2019. Of the 3,597 cases, 951 were for physical abuse, while 2,646 were for sexual abuse.

#### **Independent Police Agencies**

Consistent with prior years, the top five independent police agencies accounted for over 42% (4,671) of investigations of all Suspected Child Abuse Reports (SCARS). These agencies included Long Beach (2,227), Pomona (912), El Monte (537), Inglewood (529), and Pasadena (466). Long Beach PD, with the greatest number accounted for 20% all the Independent Police Agency SCARS. The top 4 agencies have remained consistent in recent years with the 5th spot alternating between Whittier, Pasadena and others.

#### **PROBATION**

Overall, the number of adult referrals decreased from 2019 to 2020 (2.4%), from 409 to 399. The number of adult referrals had been dropping steadily since 2009, with the one exception being 2019, which saw an increase of 7% from the 381 in 2018.

Generally, the number of juvenile referrals for child abuse offenses is decreasing, (12%) from 202 in 2016 to 177 in 2020, however, this category did show an increase from 188 in 2017 to 203 in 2018.

Consistent with prior years, sexual abuse again constituted the clear majority of child abuse referrals for both adults (85.4%) and juveniles (24.2%). In 2020, 341 of adult referrals and 43 juvenile referrals were for sex related offenses. Adult referrals in this category were down 9% from 373 in 2019, and juvenile sexual abuse referrals were also down, significantly, 79% from 201 in 2019.

Juvenile physical abuse referrals (generally for murder/attempted murder of a child; and gang related) continue to increase, (16%) from 21 in 2019 to 25 in 2020. By comparison, 12 were reported in

2016.

## LOS ANGELES COUNTY PUBLIC DEFENDER'S OFFICE

Celebrating 100 years in 2014, he Los Angeles County Public Defender's Office is both the oldest and largest full service local government defender in the US.

In FY 2020-21 the Public Defender represented clients in 29,243 felony cases; there were 52,137 attorney case assignments allocated to felony cases; and, 336,678 court hearings in which the Public Defender represented a criminal defendant. Additionally, the court assigned 70,778 misdemeanor cases to the Public Defender; 104,491 attorney case assignments allocated to misdemeanor cases; and, 582,275 court hearings in which the Public Defender represented a criminal defendant.

During FY 2020-21, the Public Defender represented clients in 13,241 delinquency hearings. The Office developed a once novel, holistic approach that has come to serve as a model for public defender offices nationwide. For over 20 years, this holistic practice has been anchored by the Client Assessment Recommendation and Evaluation (CARE) Project, through which clients are matched with in-house social workers and resource attorneys who specialize in mental health and educational advocacy. A tailored strategy is developed for each youth based upon a variety of personal factors.

Among incarcerate youth, 50-75% have a diagnosable mental health disorder, and nearly half struggle with substance abuse (source: as reported by the Physicians for Human Rights, "Mental Health in the Juvenile System). Additionally, per the Juvenile Court Judges of California, 50% of all youth in the juvenile delinquency system have undetected learning disabilities.

## LOS ANGELES COUNTOFFICE OF THE ALTERNATE PUBLIC DEFENDER

In 1993 the Office of the Alternate Public Defender (APD) was created by the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors to provide high quality, cost-effective legal representation to indigent persons charged with crimes in Los Angeles County criminal courts where the Public Defender declared a conflict.

The APD represents indigent clients charged in misdemeanor, felony, and mental health court



cases. The APD also handles pre-judgment writs and appeals and limited post-conviction matters.

The APD currently employs 301 full time employees including attorneys, paralegals, investigators, psychiatric social workers, IT workers and secretarial staff.

In November 2016, the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors ordered the APD to begin representing children in all Los Angeles County Delinquency Courts. The APD staffs all delinquency courts in pre and post dispositional matters including: WIC 601,602, WIC 777-779, AB 12/212 matters, transfer cases, educational law matters, school disciplinary hearings, individual educational plans (IEPs), competency proceedings, and Regional Center Referrals.

Additionally, APD staffs and participates in all delinquency court specialty programs including: .241.1 Pilot Project, Juvenile Mental Health Court, Department of Juvenile Justice Court (DJJ), Juvenile Drug Courts, and Succeeding Through Achievement and Resilience Court (STAR).

#### **DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SOCIAL SERVICES**

In total, there was a 7.5% increase (262,088) in the number of individuals receiving assistance for all programs combined, from December 2019 (3,485,057) to December 2020 (3,747,145). This increase is primarily due to the increasing numbers noted in the General Relief (11.35%) and CalFresh (8.93%) programs, an increase of over 20% combined.

In December 2020, 249,529 individuals received cash assistance from CalWORKs, a decrease of 6.6% compared to the 267,185 in Dec. 2019. The Cal-Learn program also decreased for the fourth consecutive year (25%) from a monthly average of 717 served in 2019 to a monthly average served of 541 in 2020.

In 2020, DPSS made fewer (25%) suspected child abuse referrals to DCFS when compared to 2019; (32 and 53 respectively). The numbers over the last 5 year period have steadily decreased from 232 in 2016 to 152 in 2017 and 74 in 2018.

## COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES FIRE DEPARTMENT, EMS

In 2021 the department provided 366,420 patients with emergency medical care (up 9% from 2020);

6% (18,964) were pediatric patients 17 years of age and younger, an increase of approximately 5% from the 18,050 in 2020.

In 2021 there were a total of 841 cases of adolescent intoxication or poisoning, a 23% increase when compared to the previous year (2020) and an increase consistent with the 702 noted in 2019. Of these cases 22% (186) involved alcohol intoxication; 78% (655) involved use of recreational drugs, prescription drugs, and/or other household chemicals or poisons. The following is a breakdown of reasons for drug/poison use:

Recreational Use (57%)

Accidental or Unknown (16%)

Suicide Attempt (28%) up 3% from 2020 and16% from 2019)

In 2021 Cannabis and alcohol were the most common of the recreational drugs reported, accounting for 23% and 22% respectively. Over-the counter medications were 20% and Benzodiazepines/ Opiates and Psych meds were a combined 23% of the top five substances documented as being used by adolescents. \*\*Note: This data preceeds the 2022 fentanyl crisis.

There were 224 incidents of adolescent suicide attempts by overdose and poisoning, an increase of 27% when compared to 2020, and a full 60% increase since 2019.

In 2021,LACo Fire paramedics identified and treated 157 victims of suspected abuse or neglect, up significantly from 90 identified in 2020 and 70 in 2019. 89 were victims of suspected physical abuse, 44 were victims of suspected neglect, and 15 were victims of sexual abuse. There were 9 pediatric homicides and 1 abandoned newborn.

Physical assaults were the most common type of abuse reported in school age children and adolescents, while neglect was most common in infants, toddlers, and young children.

## LOS ANGELES COUNTY COMMUNITY CHILD ABUSE COUNCILS

There are currently 12 community-based child abuse councils throughout Los Angeles County. It is estimated that in FY 2020-21, 42,174 adults and children (7,582 families) were involved with or impacted by the various projects and activities of the

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councils.

9 of the 12 Councils provided at least one no cost/low cost training on a wide range of topics, to a total of 1,564 community members, parents, home visitors, students, mental health clinicians, social workers, caregivers, resource parents, early childhood educators, and various professionals working within the child welfare system in Los Angeles County.

#### **MEDICAL EXAMINER-CORONER**

In calendar year 2020, 231 child death cases, based on the ICAN Child Death Review Team criteria, were referred to the team for tracking and follow-up; an increase of 19 cases from 2019.

The total number of child homicides in 2020 was 36; 11 of which were perpetrated by a parent, relative/caregiver. The 8 deaths from homicide reported in 2017 equaled the lowest number of deaths recorded in the previous 26 years.

27 (75%) of the child homicide victims were male.

Children of African American and Hispanic ethnicities each accounted for 38.9% of the 36 reported child homicides.

For more detailed program specific information please refer to the agency reports.

State of Child Abuse



#### Analysis/Commentary

On March 11, 2020, the World Health Organization (WHO) declared a global pandemic caused by the virus COVID-19, its first such designated pandemic since H1N1 (swine flu) in 2009, and a grim reminder of the 1918 global H1N1 (Samish flu) pandemic. As stay-at-home orders were issued for California, businesses were shuttered, parks, trails and beaches were closed, schools migrated to on-line classes only, County facilities were closed to the public, and masking mandates were introduced. This environment posed significant and unique challenges for those charged with protecting our vulnerable and at-risk youth.

This publication represents a return of the "Annual State of Child Abuse Report in Los Angeles County" since the Pandemic. The work that went into assembling this publication was done entirely from remote locations, and we again acknowledge the commitment and dedication of the ICAN Data Committee in completing this contents of this report.

Among the ICAN member agencies most effected by the pandemic, our Los Angeles County Department of Public Health remains front and center as they continue to steer our communities through the staggering maze of COVID 19 tracking, hospitalizations, deaths, testing, public safety and prevention recommendations. Grappling with the Pandemic has required nothing short of an all hands on deck public health response, and it is for this reason that our 2020 report is again published without their usual compelling data statement.

The number of children referred for suspected abuse or neglect in Los Angeles County has been steadily decreasing since 2017, when the total number of referrals received by the Hotline was 172,635 for the calendar year. However, the decrease noted in 2020 (24%) was the most significant noted in 15 years; 117,888 compared to 155,922 referred in 2019. The number of children referred in 2020 represents 5.1% of the child population (0-18 years old) in Los Angeles County.

Los Angeles County consistently remains the highest reporting CPS agency in the state, accounting for approximately 18% of the total Child Abuse Central Index (CACI) reports received by DOJ in 2020. However, the number of CACI reports from Los Angeles continues to indicate that child abuse may be under-reported to the index. LA County provided in-person responses to 87,195 children (74% of

all referrals) and 14,667 children were brought into the Dependency Court in 2020, yet only 1,090 children from Los Angeles County were reported to the central index. The continuing low number of reports reflected in the state-wide numbers could be evidence of the high number of referrals for general neglect (46,329), unfounded or inconclusive allegations, or families being referred to alternative community program services. These would not be reported to the central index. The low number may also be related to law enforcement agencies again not reporting to CACI in 2020. The legislation that initially excluded law enforcement from reporting to the index was enacted in 2012.

By removing law enforcement from reporting to the index, a significant group of abusers, those outside of the family, were excluded from CACI. All cases where children are abused in day care, school settings, playgrounds, etc., are no longer reported to the index. This legislation effectively eliminated access to critical offender background information should a clearance be requested on a person, or provider, who may be in a caregiving role, or with subsequent abuse allegations.

In February 2018, State Assembly Bill 1450 was introduced to return law enforcement to the reporting requirements for the Child Abuse Central Index. That Bill was approved by the Senate and State Assembly, and subsequently vetoed by the Governor's Office. The bill at that time failed to adequately address the grievance process and the "how to" for effectively removing names from the index once reported. Assembly Member Tom Lackey's Office is currently drafting new language that includes moving the grievance process to the State Office of Administrative Hearings (OAH). Once it is signed into law, the numbers reported in CACI are expected to increase.

Interestingly, in 2020, more children entered the DCFS/Dependency system than exited; this despite the significantly lower numbers of those coming in; 14,667 in 2020 compared to 16,962 in 2019. This is a return to the trend noted in the last 4 years, with 2019 being the exception when 97 more children exited than entered. Generally speaking, our Dependency Courts may be holding on to their jurisdiction of children and families longer.

As of the last day of 2020, a total of 38,622 children received in-home and out-of-home services, which represents a 10.1% increase from 2019, and a figure that seems contrary to a 24% decrease in referrals.

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State of Child Abuse



Despite being the smallest geographical service area, SPA 6 continues to exhibit the largest total caseload.

Ongoing safety and stability in the family after permanency is vital for child well-being and prevention of the recurrence of maltreatment. Among children entering foster care in the second quarter of 2019 (April – June), and discharged within 12 months to reunify, living with relatives or guardianship 9.2% reentered foster care within a 12-month period of their initial discharge. This rate is higher than the national standard of 8.3% and calls for additional intervention efforts in collaboration with community partners.

African American children continue to be overrepresented in the child welfare system; they are disproportionately represented at a consistent rate of 23.4% of the total caseload, while they are only 7.5% of the child population. This is not only an important issue for Los Angeles County, but also reflects how the larger, socio-economic issues continue to adversely impact underserved communities.

In 2020, African American children accounted for approximately 39% of the reported homicides by a parent, relative/caregiver, or third party, a level consistent with recent percentages noted.

In 2020, 9,647 DCFS referrals (8.2% of the total) had an identified concern of domestic violence (DV), down from the 11.566 noted in 2019, but an expected decrease given the lower number of referrals received. Many agencies are still challenged by the collection and reporting of data related to DV. Given the presence of DV in calls to law enforcement, dependency case filings, criminal prosecutions for child abuse, and ICAN Child Death Review cases, we continue to support agencies in their efforts to begin tracking, collecting and reporting on this important issue. It is only through our full understanding of the totality of this issue that we can begin to substantively address it on a systemic scale.

For the 16th year, the District Attorney reported data regarding the number of child abuse cases that also included the filing count of Spousal Abuse. The percentage of cases in which these offenses are joined has been consistent: from 2007 – 2010, and in 2013/14 this joinder occurred in 7% of the filings; in 2011, 2012, and 2015 this joinder occurred in 8% of the cases; in 2016-2018, 9% of the cases reflected this joinder; in 2019 it was 10%; and in 2020 the joinder occurred in 11% of the cases filed.

In 2020, a total of 4,344 cases relating to child abuse and neglect were submitted for filing consideration against adult defendants. This marks a continuing decrease over the past 4 years from the 5,089 cases that were submitted in 2017, and significantly less than the high of the 5,551 noted in 2014.

It's clear from the 2020 agency data reflected here, COVID-19 had a significant impact on child safety and well-being in Los Angeles County. Reporting of suspected abuse was down almost 25%, adoptions into loving family homes were down 40% when compared to 2019, and the number of children entering the safety net of our Dependency Court system was at a 3 year low.

However, some of the most compelling information on the negative impact of the COVID-19 Pandemic on our youth can be found in the EMS data recorded by our County Fire Department Paramedics.

In 2021, the first full year of the pandemic, there was a 23% increase of cases (841) involving intoxication and/or poisoning; 78% of those involved the use of prescription drugs, recreational drugs, and/or other household chemicals/poisons. Drug and alcohol intoxication among adolescents is on the rise (683 cases were recorded by EMS in 2020). Of these cases, 23% involved Cannabis (as an aside, marijuana is a commonly identified drug in cases reviewed by the ICAN Child and Adolescent Suicide review team), 22% involved alcohol intoxication, 20% involved use of over-the-counter medications, 15% attributed to Benzodiazepines/Opiates, and 8% involved psychiatric medications. The reasons for recreational drug/poison use are: recreational use (57%), suicide attempt (27%), and accidental or unknown (16%). \*\*Note; This data proceeds the 2022 fentanyl crisis.

Also in 2021, there were 345 incidents of adolescent suicide attempts, and increase of 48% from 2020. 224 of those were attempts by overdose, a 27% increase from 2020. 81% of these were by females, compared to 17% males and 2% non-binary.

Additionally, County Fire paramedics identified 157 cases of suspected child abuse, a 43 % increase from the 90 identified in 2020. Most of these were for physical abuse (89), and includes the nine pediatric homicides identified.

The devastating effects of the pandemic on our youth, many of which are represented here, are not likely to recede entirely as we slowly return to



a semblance of normalcy in our day to day living. Vigilance is required moving forward, for the care and well-being of the children of Los Angeles County. The full effects of COVID-19 did not arrive overnight, and we should not expect them to leave us overnight. As gatekeepers of child safety, we need to anticipate the lingering effects that may be with us for some time to come. Maybe now more than ever, we need to continue on the path of information and data sharing, of collaborating and talking with one another, and continuing to advance our approach to child protection. COVID-19 upped the stakes for us all, and the challenges continue. We are confident in our ability to answer that call, and the muliti-agency milieu represented by ICAN is a critical piece in our ability to so.

This report exemplifies ICAN's unique level of multiagency coordination in Los Angeles County, home to the largest child protection system in the nation. By sharing data and information, we learn about our collective work experience, and the responsibility we all have to the children and families we serve, within the context of our mutual caseload. It's slow to achieve its full expression, but there are increasing levels of collaboration as our agencies move forward and grow, their data statements evolving in terms of the stories they tell, and in better understanding each other in addressing issues of common concern. It's in this spirit that we continue to stand together in our resolve to achieve better outcomes, and improved safety and well-being for the children and families of Los Angeles County.



## ANALYSIS OF INTER-AGENCY DATA COLLECTION

There is limited information available from individual agencies which can be linked with other agency data to portray the child victim's route through the criminal justice and juvenile dependency systems. Information in the 2021 State of Child Abuse in Los Angeles County report presents data unique to each agency which may include the type of abuse/ neglect involved, detailed information on the victim, or the extent of the agency's work. This special interagencysection of the report attempts to show the data connections which exist between agencies and information areas which could be expanded. ICAN agencies support the Data/Information Sharing Committee efforts to establish guidelines for common denominators for intake, investigations, and dispositional data collection.

#### I. FLOW CHARTS

Flow Charts were developed to:

- Show the interrelationship of all departments in the child abuse system.
- Show the individual agency's specific activities related to child abuse.
- Reflect the data used in the annual report by showing the extent of data currently collected, and by the absence of data, graphically depict whether additional data may be reported, if the agency so chooses.
- Show differences in items being counted between agencies with similar activities.
- Provide a basis for any future modifications to be used in data collection.

Flow Chart I presents a simplified overview of the manner in which the ICAN agencies interrelate with each other and the way in which the agencies' data does (or does not) correlate with that of other agencies. Because this chart intends to provide an overview, it does not present every activity or item of data collected as detailed in the other agency Flow Charts, II through VI. Where possible, it reflects totals for common data categories between agencies.

## II. LIST OF CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT SECTIONS

Figure 1 presents the Los Angeles County Independent Police Agency data showing their involvement in child abuse and domestic violence cases.

Figure 2 list criminal offense code sections, identifying relevant child abuse offenses which allow ICAN agencies to verify and consistently report the offenses which should be included as child abuse offenses. The breakdown of these sections into six child abuse and neglect categories permits consistency in the quantification of child abuse activity compiled by the agencies, particularly the law enforcement agencies that use these criminal offense code sections. Use of this list may reveal offenses not counted in the past and therefore maximize the numbe





#### Figure 1

## LOS ANGELES COUNTY INDEPENDENT LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY (LEA) CHILD ABUSE DATA Based on Electronic Suspected Child Abuse Reports (E-SCARs) January 2020- December 2020

	Based on Electronic Suspected Child Abuse Reports (E-SCARs) January 2020- December 2020								
#	LEA	Submitted	Forwarded	Transmitted	Not Transmitted	Open In One Day	Open In Two Days	Open In Three Days	Open In More Days
1	Long Beach PD (2240)	2227	13	1473	767	2226	5	7	2
2	Pomona PD (920)	912	8	713	207	723	59	32	106
3	El Monte PD (539)	537	2	339	200	534	1	0	4
4	Inglewood PD (536)	529	7	405	131	391	37	26	82
5	Pasadena PD (472)	466	6	325	147	428	5	3	36
6	Downey PD (460)	453	7	331	123	427	3	5	25
7	Hawthorne PD (428)	425	3	262	166	421	4	2	1
8	South Gate PD (382)	377	5	271	109	337	18	5	22
9	Whittier PD (377)	372	5	276	99	375	1	1	0
10	West Covina PD (369)	354	15	285	84	301	38	15	15
11	Glendale PD (332)	325	7	199	133	222	26	26	58
12	Torrance PD (311)	304	7	238	73	216	28	14	53
13	Baldwin Park PD (298)	291	7	251	47	274	17	4	3
14	Huntington Park PD (294)	287	7	203	91	258	12	9	15
15	Gardena PD (250)	247	3	185	62	228	3	6	13
16	Montebello PD (222)	220	2	139	82	199	10	1	12
17	Alhambra PD (221)	219	2	130	91	210	1	2	8
18	Burbank PD (211)	211	0	135	76	166	12	4	29
19	Covina PD (210)	208	2	135	75	205	1	2	2
20	Bell Gardens PD (203)	200	3	158	44	176	12	6	9
21	Santa Monica PD (179)	179	0	145	34	99	12	14	54
22	Bell PD (158)	156	2	116	41	115	8	2	33
23	Azusa PD (139)	138	1	100	19	119	8	7	5
24	Redondo Beach PD (122)	121	1	87	35	119	0	0	3
25	La Verne PD (121)	119	2	98	23	104	2	5	10
26	Monterey Park PD (120)	118	2	70	50	98	3	5	14
27	San Fernando PD (107)	106	1	80	27	107	0	0	0
28	Monrovia PD (103)	102	1	71	32	100	1	0	2
29	Glendora PD (98)	96	2	69	29	93	0	2	3
30	San Gabriel PD (89)	88	1	44	30	79	7	1	2
31	Arcadia PD (89)	87	2	59	30	73	0	0	16
32	Culver City PD (86)	86	0	61	25	74	0	1	11
33	Claremont PD (83)	80	3	73	10	72	2	0	9
34	South Pasadena PD (54)	53	1	45	9	52	0	0	2
35	Signal Hill PD (52)	52	0	29	23	50	1	0	1
36	Beverly Hills PD (50)	49	1	36	14	46	1	1	2
37	Manhattan Beach PD (42)	42	0	29	13	37	2	1	2
38	El Segundo PD (36)	36	0	25	11	30	2	0	4
39	Hermosa Beach PD (21)	20	1	14	7	15	2	1	3
40	Sierra Madre PD (18)	18	0	12	6	18	0	0	0
41	San Marino PD (16)	16	0	12	4	14	1	0	1
42	Palos Verdes Estates PD (13)	13	0	10	3	10	0	2	1
43	Irwindale PD (9)	9	0	6	3	8	0	0	1
44	Vernon PD (4)	4	0	2	2	4	0	0	0
45	District Attorney (1)	1	0	1	0	1	0	0	0
	TOTAL (11085)	10953	132	7747	3287	9854	345	212	674





Figure 1 (cont)

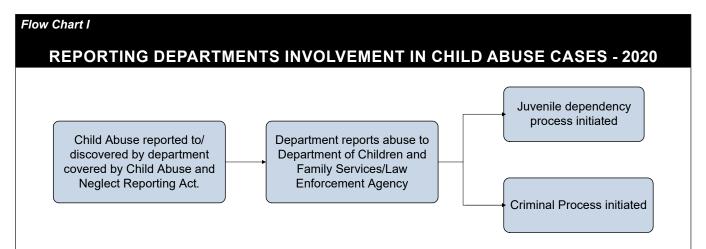
## LOS ANGELES COUNTY INDEPENDENT LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY (LEA) CHILD ABUSE DATA Based on Electronic Suspected Child Abuse Reports (E-SCARs) January 2020- December 2020

	Based on Electronic Suspected Child Abuse Reports (E-SCARs) January 2020- December 2020								
#	LEA	Unopened	Pending	Crime Suspected	Crime Suspected No Child Abuse	No Crime Suspected	No Investigation	Forward	Rerouted
1	Long Beach PD (2240)	0	0	540	648	916	136	10	0
2	Pomona PD (920)	1	1	303	49	418	148	10	0
3	El Monte PD (539)	2	0	143	128	238	28	3	0
4	Inglewood PD (536)	0	0	132	106	227	71	2	0
5	Pasadena PD (472)	0	0	157	104	190	21	6	0
6	Downey PD (460)	0	3	61	104	252	40	4	0
7	Hawthorne PD (428)	0	0	117	97	173	41	8	0
8	South Gate PD (382)	0	0	98	58	220	6	15	0
9	Whittier PD (377)	0	0	79	67	193	38	10	0
10	West Covina PD (369)	0	1	88	47	199	34	4	0
11	Glendale PD (332)	0	0	56	95	173	8	0	0
12	Torrance PD (311)	0	0	45	63	154	49	7	0
13	Baldwin Park PD (298)	1	0	86	30	167	14	6	0
14	Huntington Park PD (294)	0	0	75	67	137	15	14	0
15	Gardena PD (250)	0	1	43	45	144	17	4	0
16	Montebello PD (222)	0	0	44	49	107	22	5	0
17	Alhambra PD (221)	0	1	32	68	115	5	3	0
18	Burbank PD (211)	0	0	22	55	133	1	19	0
19	Covina PD (210)	0	0	48	59	70	33	9	0
20	Bell Gardens PD (203)	0	0	46	24	124	9	2	0
21	Santa Monica PD (179)	0	1	13	33	129	3	4	0
22	Bell PD (158)	1	3	41	30	71	12	12	0
23	Azusa PD (139)	0	0	36	2	94	7	9	0
24	Redondo Beach PD (122)	7	8	20	18	58	11	0	0
25	La Verne PD (121)	0	1	24	15	58	23	4	0
26	Monterey Park PD (120)	0	0	26	32	58	4	7	0
27	San Fernando PD (107)	0	0	50	3	47	7	12	0
28	Monrovia PD (103)	0	0	11	19	62	11	2	0
29	Glendora PD (98)	0	1	22	18	56	1	9	0
30	San Gabriel PD (89)	0	0	21	16	50	2	0	0
31	Arcadia PD (89)	0	0	4	11	71	3	0	0
32	Culver City PD (86)	0	0	15	11	52	8	2	0
33	Claremont PD (83)	1	4	14	3	60	1	2	0
34	South Pasadena PD (54)	0	0	9	3	41	1	2	0
35	Signal Hill PD (52)	0	0	8	15	29	0	1	0
36	Beverly Hills PD (50)	0	0	7	9	27	7	5	0
37	Manhattan Beach PD (42)	1	0	1	10	23	7	1	0
38	El Segundo PD (36)	0	0	13	4	10	9	1	0
39	Hermosa Beach PD (21)	0	0	3	1	17	0	0	0
40	Sierra Madre PD (18)	0	0	1	3	13	1	1	0
41	San Marino PD (16)	0	2	3	1	8	2	1	0
42	Palos Verdes Estates PD (13)	0	0	3	1	9	0	2	0
43	Irwindale PD (9)	0	0	2	1	6	0	0	0
44	Vernon PD (4)	0	0	0	2	2	0	0	0
45	District Attorney (1)	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	TOTAL (11085)	15	27	2562	2224	5401	856	218	0

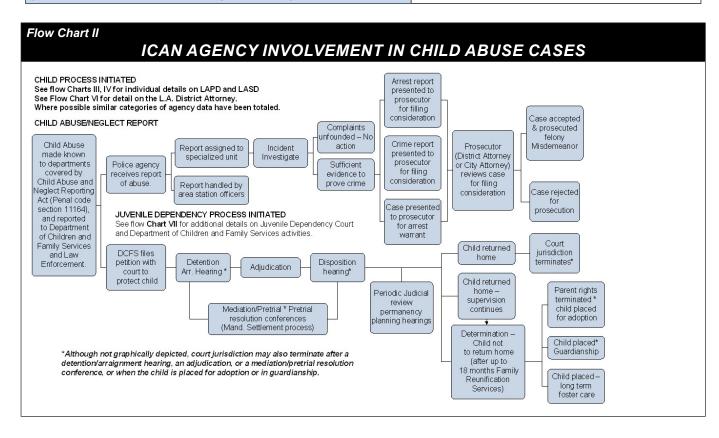
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State of Child Abuse





#### REPORTING DEPARTMENTS WORKLOAD CHIEF MEDICAL EXAMINER CORONER 231 (Reportable ICAN Child Deaths) L. A. COUNTY PROBATION DEPARTMENT 399 (Adult Referrals for Child Abuse Offenses) **DEPT. OF PUBLIC SOCIAL SERVICES** 32 (Referrals Made to DCFS) LOS ANGELES POLICE DEPARTMENT 2,481 L.A. COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPT. SVB 3,597 (Number of Child Abuse Investigations) **DEPT. OF CHILDREN & FAMILY SERVICES** 117,888 (Number of Children Referred for Suspected Abuse)



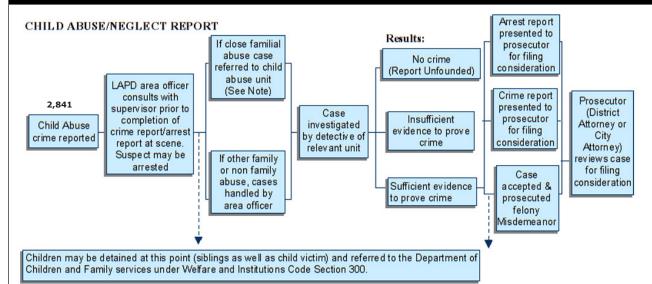








#### LOS ANGELES POLICE DEPARTMENT INVOLVEMENT IN CHILD ABUSE CASES



#### NOTE:

Case Count Definition

Endangering cases:

Multiple victims in same family = 1 report (case)

All other cases:

Each victim = 1 report (case)

Abused Child Unit Responsibilities

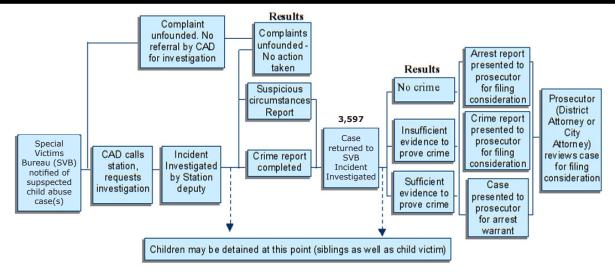
Abused Child Unit handles abuse involving parents, step parent, legal guardian, common law spouse.

#### GEOGRAPHIC AREA RESPONSIBILITIES

Abuse in which perpetrator is not parent, step parent, legal guardian, or common law spouse: child not primary object of attack, but receives injury; unfit homes, endangering and dependent child cases; other cases where criteria does not meet Abused Child Unit.

#### Flow Chart IV

#### LOS ANGELES SHERIFF DEPARTMENT INVOLVEMENT IN CHILD ABUSE CASES



#### **Note: Case Count Definition**

Multiple victims of the same incident, in the same family are treated as one case.

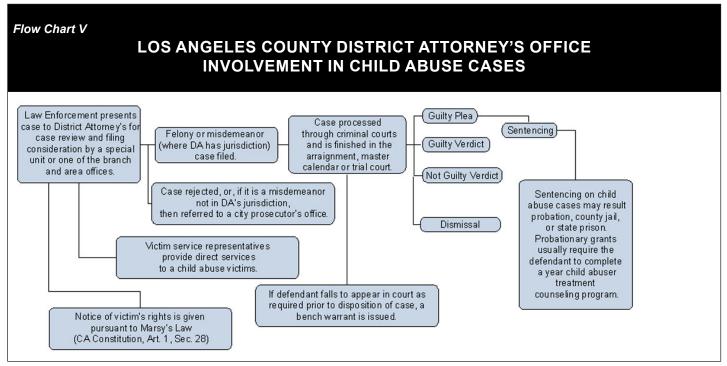
The Special Victims Bureau does not handle neglect/endangerment cases.

See the Los Angeles Sheriff's Department Report for more details on their workload.









#### Flow Chart VI JUVENILE DEPENDENCY COURT/DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN AND FAMILY SERVICES **INVOLVEMENT IN CHILD ABUSE CASES** Petition filed Emergency response vith court (new cases assessed/ subsequent or Adjudication (if allegation opened by DCFS Mediation/pretrial resolution supplemental) against parents true arraignment conference (mandatory dependency court jdx will be necessary)\* hearing\* settlement process)\* No petition filed. Voluntary services Child remains in home Court under DCFS supervision Case assessed/ iurisdiction ("Family Maintenance investigated, ER terminates service's provided Services" provided) Child and closed by DCFS returned home Results: Court "Judicial Child placed Terminate Review" hearings/ Child returned Disposition outside of home ("Family Reunification parental rights permanency home, Family hearing and place child Planning hearings Services continued Services" provided) for adoption conducted Child cannot be returned to home Other (transfers, Place child in (after up to 18 guardian ship months planning hearings, etc.) Reunification Services) Place child in \* Although not graphically depicted, court jurisdiction may also terminate after a long term detention/arraignment hearing, an adjudication, or a mediation/pretrial resolution foster care\* conference, or when the child is placed for adoption or guardianship. For additional information, refer to agency report for more details on their workload.







<i>-</i> :							
Figure 2 CHILD ABUSE/NEGLECT OFFENSES BY CATEGORY							
Child Abuse/ Neglect	Offense						
Category	Code	FELONY/MISD	DESCRIPTION				
	187 (a)	F	Murder				
	207 (a)	F	Kidnapping				
Physical Abuse	207 (b)	F	Attempt Kidnap Child Under 14				
	273ab	F	Assault Resulting in Death of Child Under 8 (willfully place or permit a child to suffer)				
	273d(a)	F	Corporal Punishment or Injury to Child (cruel or inhumane physical punishment)				
	664/187	F	Attempted Murder				
	236.1	F	Human Trafficking				
	261.5(a)	F	Unlawful Sexual Intercourse w/Minor under 18				
	261.5(b)	М	Unlawful Sexual Intercourse w/Minor who isn't +3 or -3 years younger than the perpetrator				
	264.1	F	Rape or Penetration in Concert w/Another w/Force, Fear or Violence				
	269	F	Aggravated Sexual Assault of Child Under 14 & at least 7 yr. age difference				
	269 (a)1	F	Rape of Person Under 14 w/Force or Threat w/7 yr Diff.				
	269(a)2	F	Rape or Penetration w/ Foreign Object				
	269(a)3	F	Sodomy with Person Under 18				
	269(a)4	F	Oral Copulation Person Under 18				
	269(a)5	F	Sexual Penetration w/Foreign Object w/Force, Fear or Voilence				
	286(b)(1)	F/M	Sodomy w/Person Under 18				
	286(b)(2)	F	Sodomy w/Person Under 16				
	286 c	F	Sodomy wPerson Under 14 & more than 10 yeaars younger				
	286(d)	F	Sodomy with Minor in Concert w/Another w/Force, Fear or Violence				
Sexual Abuse	288(a)	F	Lewd Acts w/Child Under 14				
Sexual Abuse	288(b)1	F	Lewd Acts w/Child Under 14 w/ Force, Fear or Violence				
	288(c)1	F/M	Lewd Acts w/Child under 15 w/10 Year Age Difference				
	288.4	F/M	Arrangement of Meeting Minor for Lewd Behavior				
	288.5	F	Continuous Sexual Abuse of a Child under 14				
	288a(b)(1)	М	Oral Copulation w/ Person Under 18				
	288a(b)(2)	F	Oral Copulation w/ Person Under 16				
	288a(c)	F	Oral Copulation of Minor Under 14 w/Force, Fear or Violence w/10 year Age Diff.				
	288a(d)	F	Oral Copulation of Minor w/Disability in Concert w/Force, Fear, or Violence				
	288.2	F/M	Sending Harmful Matter to a Minor w/ intent to seduce Minor				
	289(a)(1)	F	Forcible Sexual Penetration of Minor				
	289(h)	F/M	Sexual Penetration Person Under 18				
	289(i)	F	Sexual Penetration Person Under 16 by someone over age of 21				
	289(j)	F	Sexual Penetration Under 14 w/10 Year Age Difference				
	647.6(c)(2)	F	Annoy or Molest Child After Prior Conviction of Certfied Sex Offenses				
	647.6(a)(1)	М	Annoy or Molest Child Under 18				







Figure 2 (continued)	CHILD ABL	JSE/NEGL	ECT OFFENSES BY CATEGORY			
Child Abuse/ Neglect Category	Offense Code	FELONY/ MISD	DESCRIPTION			
	266	F	Seduce Minor Female under 18 for Prostitution			
	266h(b)	F	Pimping a Minor			
	266i(b)	F	Pandering a Minor			
	266j	F	Procure Child Under 16 for Lewd Acts			
	267	F	Abduction of Minor under 18 for Prostitution			
	273(c)(1)	М	Financial Gain Place for Adoption and Not Completed			
	273(c)(2)	М	Financial Gain Place for Adoption and Not Consented			
	273e	М	Sending Minor Messenger to Immoral Place			
	273g	М	Immoral Practices or Habitual Drunkenness in the presence of child			
	311.1(a)	F/M	Obscene Matter Depicting Child Under 18			
Fundintation	311.1	F	Advertise/Distribute Obscene Matter Depicting a Minor			
Expliotation	311.11(a)	F/M	Poss./Control Child Pornography to be sold or distributed			
	311.11(b)	F	Obscene Matter Depict Minor w/Prior Conviction			
	311.2(a)	М	Production, Distributing or Exhibiting Obscene Matter & being your first offense			
	311.2(b)	F	Obscene Matter Depict One Under 18			
	311.2(c)	F	Production, Distrib. or Exhibiting Obscene Matter with person over 18			
	311.2(d)	F	Obscene Matter Depicting Child Under 18			
	311.3	F	Depict Sex Conduct w/Child Under 18			
	311.4(a)	М	Use Minor for Obscene Matter			
	311.4(b)	F	Use Minor Under 18 for Obscene Matter			
	311.4(c)	F	Use Minor Under 18 for Obscene (not necessary to prove "commercial pur			
	313.1	F/M	Distribution or Exhibition of Harmful Matter to Minor under 18			
	273a(a)	F	Willful Cruelty/ChildEndangerment			
	273a(b)	М	Willful Cruelty/ChildEndangerment			
	278	F	Child Concealment/Non-custodial Person			
Severe Neglect	278.5	F/M	Child Abduction through Depreviation of Custody ("Wobbler")			
	25100(a)	F	Storage of Firearms Accessible to Children (1st Degree)			
	25100(b)	F	Storage of Firearms Accessible to Children (2nd Degree)			
	25200	М	Firearms Accessed by Child Carried Off and Concealed			
General Neglect	273g	М	Immoral Acts Before Child			
	273i	М	Publish Info of Child w/ Intent to Harm Under 14			
	270	М	Failure to Provide for Child			
	272	М	Contributing to Delinquency of a Minor			
	270.5	М	Refusal to Accept Child Into Home			
Caretaker Absence	271	М	Willful Desertion of Child under 14			
	271a	F/M	Abandonment/ Nonsupport etc Child Under 14			





#### **Demographics**



#### **DEMOGRAPHICS**

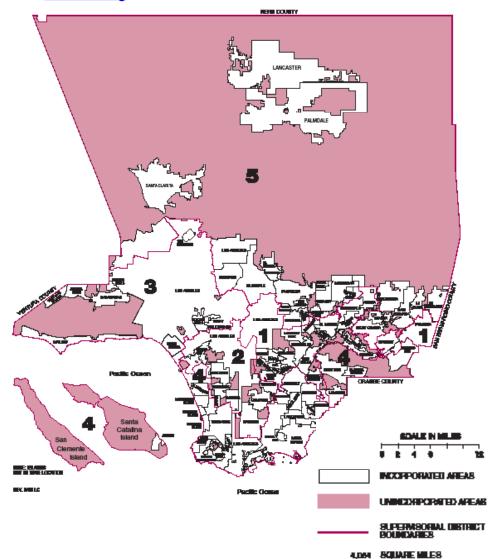
- Los Angeles County is 4,083 square miles in size and includes 88 incorporated cities.
- The total population for Los Angeles County is 9,839,000 (U.S. Census Bureau, 2021 Estimates). It is the most populous county in the United States.
- 0 17 years child population represent 22% of the population (2,196,258) (Lucile Packard Foundation, (kidsdata.org)
- The median age for Los Angeles County is 37 years.
- There are 659,261 (<u>kidsdata.org</u>) children under 5 years of age.
- From the Lucile Packard Foundation for Children's Health and <u>Kidsdata.org</u>, the child

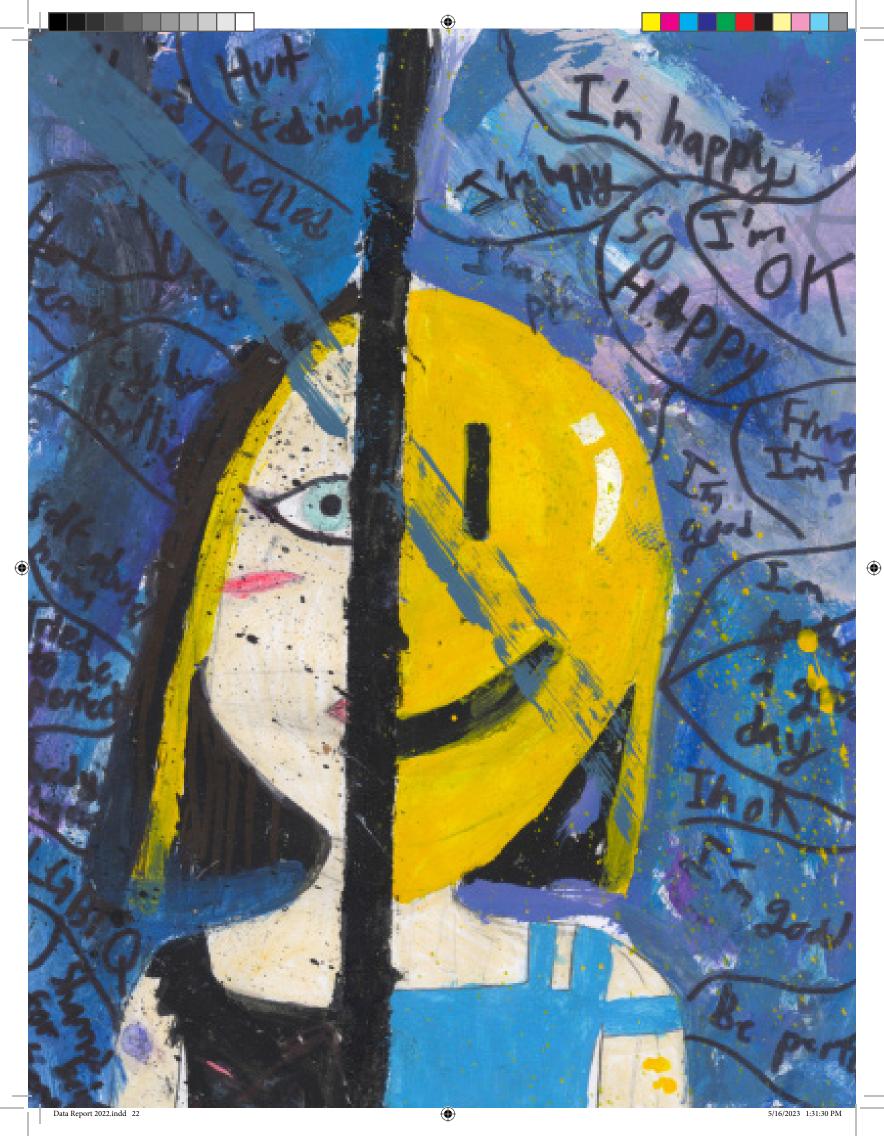
population (0-17) is 55.7% Hispanic/Latino, 20.4% Caucasian, 7.5% African American, 12.2% Asian, 3.4% Multiracial, 0.2% Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander, and 0.2% American Indian/Alaskan Native.

• 106,450 live births were recorded (2021, Los Angeles Almanac).

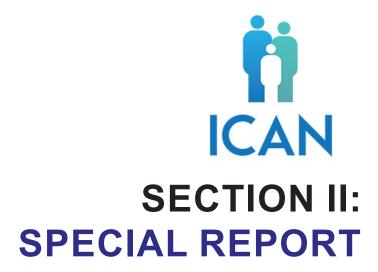
#### **UNINCORPORATED AREAS**

- 120-125 cities and unincorporated areas; 2,638 square miles; represents two-thirds of the County's land and one-tenth of its population.
- Approximetly 65% of Los Angeles County is unincorporated, about one million people live in these areas.









Art by Alexa Juarez, ICAN Student Poster Art Contest













## ICAN HOSPITAL NETWORK

The Hospital Network Project (HNP) believes that hospitals are in need of better connections to the child protection system. The project has a particular focus on the reporting of suspected child abuse, specifically those under the age of four. We believe the reports that focus on young children, provide a unique opportunity for prevention; and it is a goal of the HNP to assist hospitals with increasing their overall reporting of suspected child abuse. Hospitals vary in their response to child maltreatment, and provide different levels of competence, and interest, in reporting child abuse. There exists little measure or quality assessment of their work. Homicide by caretaker increases with younger age.

In Calendar Years 2015 -2019, 311 hospitals, Medical Magnet Schools, clinics, Superior Court medical staff, etc. recoded Suspected Child Abuse Referrals on Los Angeles County residents. These, included hospitals from out-of-County areas such as Bakersfield and Las Vegas. Additionally, included among the 311 are also 67 Kaiser Hospitals from areas such as San Diego, San Dimas, Sacramento and Santa Ana.

The top 5 reporting hospitals were: Kaiser Sunset (4753), Children's Hospital Los Angeles (3962), LAC/USC Medical Center (3286), Harbor/ UCLA (2827), Antelope Valley Hospital (2545).

The HNP began with a statewide ICAN grant to write guidelines for investigation of fatal and severe child abuse. During the period of the initial grant, the Network worked with more than 100 hospitals statewide, in both urban and rural communities. In the last few years, the focus has moved to Los Angeles County, with a population in excess of 10 million, as a more manageable dataset. We still have the statewide goal of connecting hospitals with themselves, in terms of what their reporting looks like and how reports are managed, and with each other, for common data, sharable resources, and increased peer-to-peer interaction. The HNP is continuously challenged to balance the concerns of confidential records with the need to share information for the protection of children.



#### ICAN Hospital Network

#### Sample Program Highlights

• 63 hospitals accounting for 91% of all births in LA County; also includes 91% of all injured children under the age of 3 seen in Emergency Departments and 99% of those seen as inpatients;

- The Network addresses the very young and response variation. A countywide network was created in 1981 with 6 hospital SCAN Teams. Reports increased from 50 to 500/mo. in two years. Today Los Angeles County has approximately 29 SCAN Teams. The HNP is assisting in connecting DCFS to each of those;
- Connect birth hospitals to the ICAN Child Death Review process;
- Provide information and training on ways to identify newborns and help for parents who may be at risk of abuse and/or neglect;
- Advocate for the inclusion of fentanyl testing in routine drug screens in both public and private hospitals and the Department of Medical Examiner/Coroner;
- Expand Home Visitation and the Well Baby program to include identified "high risk" not currently served.
   30 year anecdotal child death data for Los Angeles County indicates only 2 cases out of 1,000 had a home visitation program.

## FIRST 5 CALIFORNIA PRESENTATION IN SUPPORT OF EXPANDING HOME VISITATION FOR LOS ANGELES COUNTY RESIDENTS

The ICAN Hospital Network has compiled data from the Los Angeles County Department of Children & Family Services (LAC-DCFS). The information shared does not include any patient identifiers. Important to note, there was some variability in the way hospitals were named as many hospital professionals who report suspected child abuse are from large medical centers and work in separate buildings. For example, UCLA is associated with several hospitals. In this report, suspected child abuse reports from Westwood UCLA Medical Center and UCLA Mattel Hospital are combined under the name UCLA Medical Center. While UCLA Santa Monica Hospital is listed separately.

Additionally, there was variability in the way hospitals were listed on the suspected child abuse reports. Examples of this variability include:

- Memorial Care Long Beach Medical Center
- · Long Beach Hospital
- Long Beach Medical Center
- Memorial Care Millers Children' & Women's Hospital Long Beach

This data compilation necessitated that the ICAN Hospital Network standardize the hospitals' business/legal names. For example, the hospitals listed above were standardized with the official name of Memorial Care Long Beach Medical Center.

Another example includes Partners in Health-PIH, an international delivery health organization is in 11 countries. In Los Angeles County, there are three PIH Hospitals. The suspected child abuse data is separate for each of the following hospitals. However, in some cases, the suspected child abuse report did not specify the originating hospital instead using the name PIH Health Hospital. Due to the ambiguity, we kept those reports listed separately.

PIH Whitter Hospital

State of Child Abuse

#### ICAN Hospital Network



- PIH Downey Hospital
- PIH Good Samaritan Hospital
- PIH Health Hospital

Table 1 SCAN, PICU, AND NICU HOSPITALS					
Hospital/Medical Center	SCAN Team	PICU	NICU		
Antelope Valley Health Partners	No	Yes	No		
Beverly Hospital	No	No	Yes		
California Hospital Medical Center	-	Yes	Yes		
Cedar Sinai Medical Center	Yes	Yes	Yes		
Centinela Hospital Medical Center	No	Yes	Yes		
East Los Angeles Doctor Hospital	No	Yes	No		
Garfield Medical Center	Yes	Yes	Yes		
Glendale Memorial Hospital	-	-	Yes		
Good Samaritan Hospital	No	Yes	No		
Henry Mayo Hospital	Yes	Yes	No		
Hollywood Presbyterian	No	Yes	Yes		
Huntington Hospital	No	Yes	No		
LAC + USC Medical Center	Yes	Yes	Yes		
LAC Harbor- UCLA Medical Center	Yes	Yes	Yes		
LAC Olive View-UCLA Medical Center	Yes	Yes	Yes		
Martin Luther King Jr. Community Hospital	No	-	Yes		
Miller Children's Women's Hospital Long Beach	Yes	Yes	Yes		
Northridge Hospital Medical Center	No	Yes	Yes		
PIH Health Whittier Hospital	Yes	Yes	Yes		
Pomona Valley Hospital Medical Center	Yes	Yes	Yes		
Providence Holy Cross Medical Center	-	Yes	No		
Providence Little Company of Mary	No	No	No		
Providence St. Joseph Medical Center	-	-	-		
Queen of the Valley	-	-	-		
St. Francis Medical Center	No	Yes	No		
St. Mary Medical Center	No	-	Yes		
Torrance Memorial Hospital	Yes	Yes	Yes		
Valley Presbyterian Hospital	Yes	Yes	Yes		
White Memorial Hospital	No	Yes	Yes		

Note: Welcome Baby Hospital Hospitals are highlighted in green. County hospitals are highlighted in yellow and unknown is represented by a dash (-). Retrieved from: Interagency Council on Child Abuse and Neglect (2018) Hospital Data. Number of identified Scan Teams may vary.









Note: Welcome Baby Hospital Hospitals are highlighted in green. County hospitals are highlighted in yellow.

111

63

10

19

70

**Saint Francis Medical Center** 

San Gabriel Valley Medical Center

Santa Monica UCLA Medical Center

**Saint Mary Medical Center** 

**UCLA Medical Hospital** 

West Hills Hospital **White Memorial Hospital** 

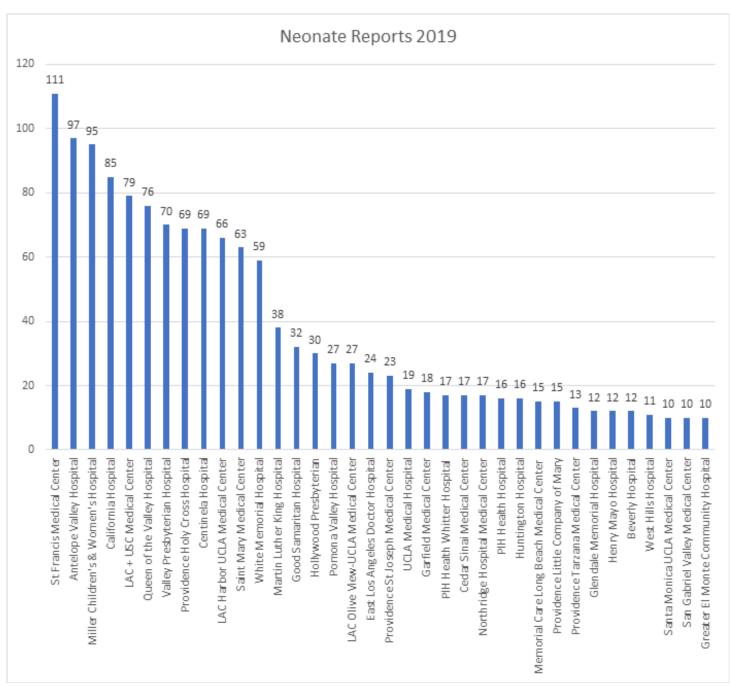
Valley Presbyterian Hospital





State of Child Abuse





Retrieved from: Department of Children and Family Services (2020). Referrals by Hospital







#### ICAN Hospital Network

Table 3 NEONATE REPORTING 2020				
Hospital/Medical Center	Number of Reports			
Antelope Valley Hospital	105			
Beverly Hospital	12			
California Hospital Medical Center	75			
Cedar Sinai Medical Center	12			
Centinela Hospital	62			
East Los Angeles Doctors Hospital	24			
Garfield Medical Center	17			
Glendale Memorial Hospital	13			
Good Samaritan Hospital	20			
Hollywood Presbyterian	34			
Huntington Hospital	12			
LAC + USC Medical Center	90			
LAC Harbor UCLA Medical Center	54			
LAC Olive View-UCLA Medical Center	36			
Martin Luther King Hospital	32			
Miller Children's & Women's Hospital	95			
Northridge Hospital Medical Center	20			
PIH Health Whittier Hospital	34			
Pomona Valley Hospital	31			
Providence Holy Cross Hospital	56			
Providence Little Company of Mary	10			
Providence St. Joseph Medical Center	15			
Queen of the Valley Hospital	70			
St. Francis Medical Center	79			
St. Mary's Medical Center	51			
Torrance Memorial Hospital	11			
Valley Presbyterian Hospital	70			
White Memorial Hospital	51			

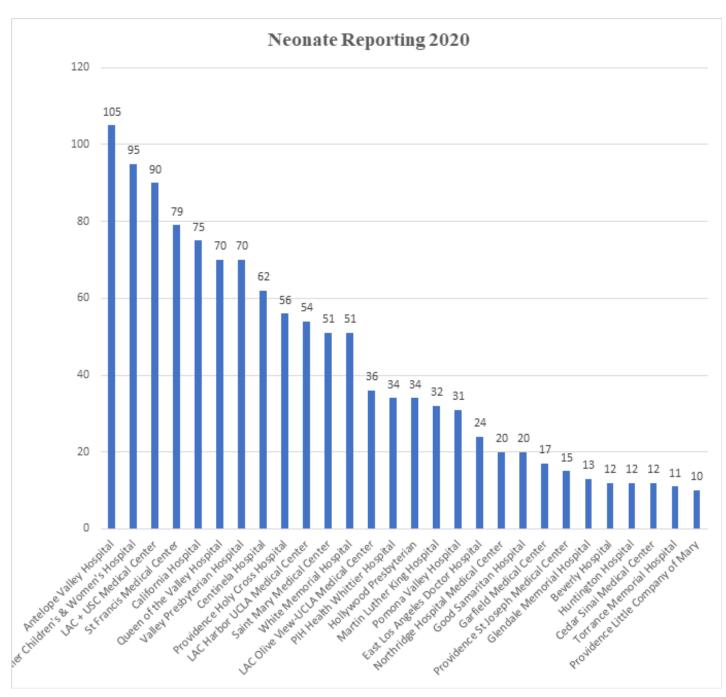
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Note: Welcome Baby Hospital Hospitals are highlighted in green. County hospitals are highlighted in yellow. Retrieved from: Department of Children and Family Services (2020). Referrals by Hospital.









Retrieved from: Department of Children and Family Services (2020). Referrals by Hospital







#### ICAN Hospital Network

The ICAN Hospital Network is the place where hospitals and the child protection system in Los Angeles County intersect. The following graph represents the number of births by hospital, aggregate numbers of suspected abuse reports, paired down to number of neonate reports (0 - 4 days), and finally those reports that were evaluated –out at the Child Protection Hotline (CPHL).

The significant number of evaluated out reports, made by hospitals, is generally attributed to positive toxicology screens for marijuana. These cases are routinely referred to Community Program Linkages (CPL) for services. Injuries occurring outside of the family home are also typically evaluated out.

As a preface, the Combined Kaiser Hospitals listed below include: Woodland Hills, Harbor, Downey, Sunset, Kaiser LA (formerly Cadillac), Long Beach and Baldwin Hills.

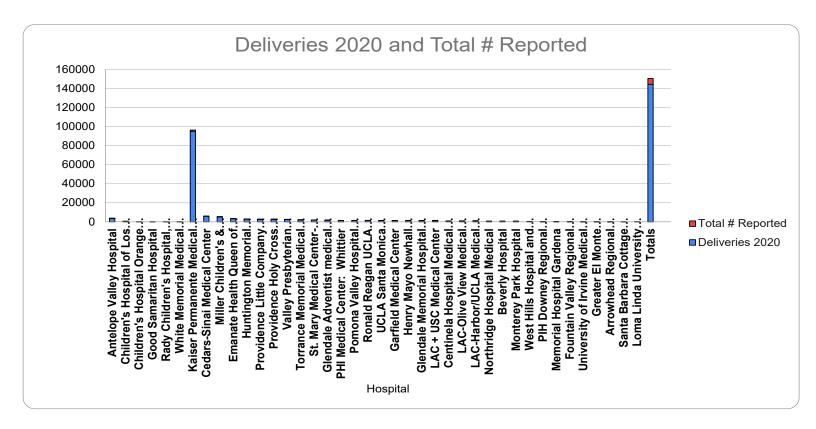
SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA HOSPITAL REPORTING DATA						
Hospital	Deliveries 2020	Total # Reported	2020 Neonate Report (0-4 days)	Evaluted Out (0-7 days)		
Antelope Valley Hospital	3533	337	105	132		
Children's Hospital of Los Angeles	N/A	738	2	202		
Children's Hospital Orange County	N/A	60	N/A	29		
Good Samaritan Hospital	N/A	35	20	16		
Rady Children's Hospital, San Diego	N/A	1	N/A	N/A		
White Memorial Medical Center	N/A	113	51	63		
Kaiser Permanente Medical Southern California (Combined)	95053	1322	91	563		
Cedars-Sinai Medical Center	5781	97	12	56		
Miller Children's & Women's Hospital Long Beach Memorial Care Medical Center	5090	503	103	165		
Emanate Health Queen of the Valley	3289	167	70	54		
Huntington Memorial Medical Center	2745	69	12	25		
Providence Little Company of Mary-San Pedro/Torrance Combined)	2,712	62	10	38		
Providence Holy Cross Medical Center	2633	178	57	61		
Valley Presbyterian Medical Center	2454	138	70	59		
Torrance Memorial Medical Center	2132	42	11	15		
St. Mary's Medical Center-Long Beach	1837	132	51	48		
Glendale Adventist Medical Center Wilson Terrace	1669	24	4	13		
PHI Medical Center: Whittier	1444	67	34	20		
Pomona Valley Hospital Medical Center	1378	112	31	30		
Ronald Reagan UCLA Medical Center Mattel Children's Hospital	1372	46	N/A	17		
UCLA Santa Monica Medical Center	1345	64	10	19		
Garfield Medical Center	1305	40	17	8		
Henry Mayo Newhall Memorial Medical Center	1225	65	7	26		
Glendale Memorial Hospital & Health Center	1,222	31	13	9		
LAC + USC Medical Center	1051	470	90	215		
Centinela Hospital Medical Center	893	121	62	69		
LAC-Olive View Medical Center	852	231	36	62		
LAC-Harbor/UCLA Medical Center	834	472	54	239		
Northridge Hospital Medical	572	142	20	77		
Beverly Hospital	558	34	12	21		

#### ICAN Hospital Network



Monterey Park Hospital	546	16	5	2
West Hills Hospital and Medical Center	297	23	8	7
PIH Downey Regional Medical Center	220	40	2	5
Memorial Hospital Gardena	146	16	2	4
"Fountain Valley Regional Hospital and Medical Center, Orange County"	86	1	N/A	N/A
University of Irvine Medical Center	65	7	N/A	4
Greater El Monte Community Hospital	27	1	N/A	2
Arrowhead Regional Medical Center	9	2	1	5
Santa Barbara Cottage Hospital	4	0	N/A	3
Loma Linda University Medical Center		18	3	13
TOTALS	144379	6037	1076	2396

<sup>\*</sup>Reports from LA County DCFS

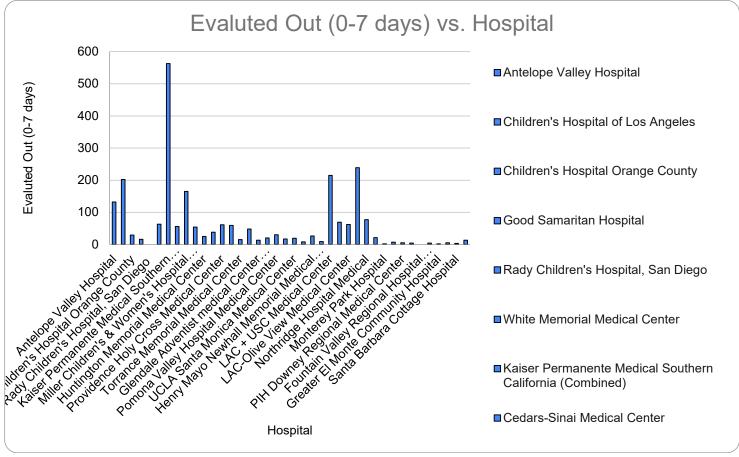


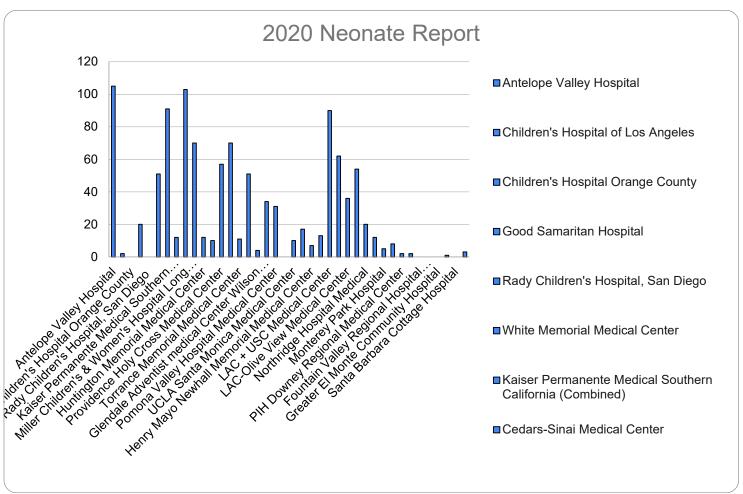




<sup>\*</sup>Data from state of California









#### **Hospital Network Project Moving Forward**

#### **CONNECT HEALTH CARE TO THE CHILD PROTECTION SYSTEM**

#### 1. ADD ADDITIONAL HEALTH CARE SYSTEMS TO THE NETWORK

- URGENT CARE
- PHYCH HOSPITALS (INCLUDING STATE HOSPITALS) FOR BIRTHS
- CRIMINAL JUSTICE JAILS, PRISONS, PROBATION
- ADD SCHOOL NURSES AND ASSOCIATIONS
- REGIONAL CENTERS; and
- AMBULANCE EMT
- CONTACTS WITH STATE AND LOCAL HEALTH (DHS AND PUBLIC HEALTH)

#### 2. RESPOND TO NEW AND EMERGING PROBLEMS

- FENTANEYL AND EXPOSURE TO YOUNG CHILDREN
- PREGNANCY IN PSYCHIATRIC HOSPITALS
- PREGNANCY IN ELEMENTRY SCHOOLS AND REGIONAL CENTERS; and
- PREGNANCY IN JAILS, PRISONS, PROBATION CAMPS

#### 3. CONNECT HOSPITALS TO AND CHILD PROTECTION

- CPS WORKER VISIT SCAN TEAMS
- PROVIDE HOSPITALS [THEIR] REPORT DATA AND DATA SUMMARIES FOR ALL REPORTS
- HOSPITALS ATTEND AND PRESENT AT ICAN DEATH REVIEW (CDRT)
- · REPRENTATIVES TO ICAN HOSPITALS FROM COUNTY DHS AND PH AND PHN
- SURVEY OF SCAN TEAMS FOR LEVEL OF ACTIVITY (ALL)

#### 4. SPECIAL STUDIES AND TRAININGS

- BURN AND PICU REPORTS
- PICU
- "EVALULATED OUT" BY PROGRAM/POSITION OF REPORTER TO INCLUDING HOME VISITATION

#### 5. ICAN HOSPITAL PERINATAL PROGRAM

- DEVELOP CONTACTS IN LOCAL AND STATE MCH PROGRAMS; TARGETED TRAINING(S)
- PROVIDE HENRY KEMPE VIDEO TO BIRTH HOSPITALS
- HOSPITAL (ROUNDTABLE) WHEN BIRTH BECOMES A HOMICIDE
- INFANT RISK REPORTING



#### ICAN Hospital Network

- IF AVAILABLE OBTAIN BIRTH HOSPITAL DATA FROM CORONER
- PROVIDE FOLLOW-UP WITH CORONER FOR BIRTH HOSPITALS WITH INFANT HOMICIDE 0-3

### 6. OUTREACH; SHARE PROGRAM WITH OTHER JURISDICTIONS AND COUNTY, STATE AND NATIONAL COUNTERPARTS

- CONNECT WITH MCH PROGRAMS IN OTHER COUNTIES AND STATES TO SHARE FINDINGS
- REGIONALIZE CALIFORNIA CONTACTS
- DPH INJURY PREVENTION
- 7. BUILD AND MANAGE DATA STORAGE SYSTEM AND MAKE DATA AVAILABLE TO HOSPITAL
- ANNUAL REPORT ON REFFERALS BY HOSPITALS
- IMPROVE DIRECTORY TO INCLUDE SCAN TEAM HOSPITALS, NICU'S, PICU'S, BURN UNITS
- CREATE MASTER STORAGE AND MAINTAIN INVENTORY OF ALL DATA SETS
- BIRTH DATA BY HOSPITAL AND INCLUDE AGE OF MOTHER IF POSSIBLE

## 8. CREATE AN ADVISORY TEAM FROM HOSPITAL REPRESENTATIVES, HOSPITAL COUNCILS, ETC., TO MEET INFORMALLY, OR REGULARLY, AND PROVIDE COMMENT ON HOW WE ARE DOING

- 1. Informal Generally meet and review cases and with others as needed
- 2. Basic Multidiscipline as needed for case review
- Formal Multidiscipline meet regularly, review cases and identify problems

#### 9. SPECIAL STUDIES FOR PRESENTATION OR PUBLISHING

- INFANTS BORN AT RISK
- CPS VISITING SCAN TEAMS, HOSPITALS, AND DEATH REVIEW
- HOSPITAL NETWORK PROGRAM(S)
- ICAN 30 YEAR REPORT
- BURNS, BIRTHS AND PICU'S
- HOME VISITATION
- ICAN WEB PAGE CONTENT

#### PERINATAL PROJECT

State of Child Abuse

- DATA AND PROGRAM INFO FOR [ANNUAL] REPORT ON RISK REPORTING OF NEWBORNS
- REVIEW OF RISK PROTOCOLS
- TRAINING ON RISK REPORTS OF NEWBORNS
- LOCATING AND ANALYZING PROTOCOLS FOR MANAGEMENT OF THESE CASES
- CONSIDERATION OF "BEST PRACTICES" STANDARDS FOR RISK REPORTS

#### ICAN Hospital Network



- NETWORKING WITH PERINATAL PROGRAMS
- HOME VISITATION PROGRAMS WHAT HAPPENS TO CASES AFTER REPORTED
- WHAT SERVICES ARE AVAILABLE IN JAILS, PROBATION CAMPS AND LINKS TO TEEN PREGNANCE AND DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

#### **FUTURE EXPANSION/MISCELLANEOUS GOALS**

- SYSTEM TO PROVIDE HOSPITAL FOLLOW UP ON DCFS REPORTING OF CHILD FATALITIES
- PARTNERSHIP WITH HOME VISITATION PROGRAMS
- ACTIVE ROLE FOR STATE AND COUNTY HEALTH AND PUBLIC HEALTH
- DEFINED STAFF LIAISON FROM DHS AND PH
- CONNECT HOSPITAL NETWORK TO DEATH REVIEW
- REGULAR NEWSLETTER FROM HOSPITAL NETWORK TO HOSPITALS

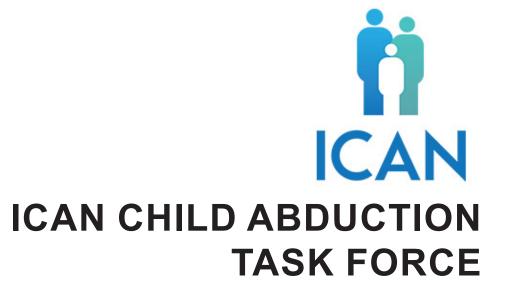






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It is estimated that each year hundreds of children are abducted by parents in Los Angeles County. In addition, numerous children are abducted each year by strangers. Thanks in part to local law enforcement, Los Angeles District Attorney Child Abduction Unit Investigators, the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), and Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) social workers, many of these children are recovered and reunified with their custodial or foster parents. While the trauma of abduction is obvious, reunification with the searching parent and family can present its own set of difficulties. In the case of parental abduction, allegations of child abuse, domestic violence, and chronic substance abuse require skilled assessment by investigating agencies.

To study and work on these issues, ICAN formed the Child Abduction Task Force in July 1990. As a result of the Task Force's efforts, in September 1991, the "Reunification of Missing Children Project" was initiated. The initial Project encompassed an area in West Los Angeles consisting of Los Angeles Police Department's (LAPD) West Los Angeles and Pacific Divisions; Sheriff's Marina Del Rey, Malibu/Lost Hills, West Hollywood, and Lennox station areas; and the Culver City Police Department.

In September 1995, the Project was expanded countywide. The U.S. Department of Justice and the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention made funding available for mental health services at two additional community mental health sites, the HELP Group in the San Fernando Valley, and Plaza Community Services in East Los Angeles. Training was conducted for law enforcement agencies throughout the County, DCFS social workers, mental health therapists from the HELP Group and Plaza Community Services, and District Attorney Victim Assistance staff to familiarize them with the Project and its benefits.

The expanded Project is currently referred to as the ICAN Child Abduction Task Force/Reunification of Missing Children Program, and participants include: Find the Children, Didi Hirsch Community Mental Health (CMH), For The Child, Los Angeles Child Guidance Center, Foothill Family Services, HELP Group, the Children's Center of Antelope Valley, the Child and Family Guidance Center in Van Nuys, St. Frances Children's Counseling Center, Children's Bureau, Interface Mental Health Services, Los Angeles County Department of Children and Family Services, Los Angeles County Office of County Counsel (Child Abduction Unit)I, Los Angeles District Attorney Child Abduction Unit, Los Angeles Sheriff's Department, Los Angeles Police Department (LAPD), and the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI).

The Program's goal is to reduce trauma to children and families who are victims of parental or stranger abductions by providing an effective, coordinated multi-agency response to child abduction and reunification. Services provided by the Program include quick response by mental health staff to provide assessment and intervention, linkage with support services, and coordination of law enforcement, child protection and mental health support to preserve long term family stability.



#### ICAN Child Abduction Task Force

The Task Force is alternately coordinated by Find the Children and the Child Abduction Unit within the Los Angeles County Office of County Counsel. Find the Children places a strong emphasis on preventative education through community outreach programs such as their School Safety Programs for preschool, elementary and middle school-aged children. The goal of programs like these is to educate the public on the issue of child abduction and abuse and to present measures that should be taken to help ensure the safety of all children. These preventionbased programs are also intended to support the efforts of the Task Force. The Child Abduction Unit within the Office of the County Counsel emphasizes more of recovery approach in their management of the Task Force. Both approaches, working in concert with one another, make for a balanced program.

In order to monitor and evaluate the progress of ongoing cases receiving services, the Task Force conducts monthly meetings and all cases are reviewed. The Task Force participants provide expertise, assess each case for further action, and identify training needs.

Figure 1 shows that in 2021, the Program served 9 (13) children in 5 (10) cases1 as compared to the 13 children in 10 cases served in 2019. This is a 50% decrease in caseload and a 31% decrease in the number of children served from the prior year recorded (2019), and builds on similar decreases going back to 2017. Both figures again reflect a significant decrease from prior years. The number of families served in 2021 is also significantly lower than the five-year average of 31 cases. As well, the number of children served is lower than the five-year average of 43 children. There has been a steady decrease noted in both of these categories since the peak year of 2014 when 97 children in 69 cases were served. Training and educational interventions in the schools and elsewhere in the community, targeting child safety and stranger awareness, can in part attribute to the steady decreases. 2014 was also a peak year in terms of the number of referrals received by DCFS.

Figure 2 shows the ethnic breakdown for the 10 children served in calendar year 2021: 44% were Hispanic,44%were African-American, 12% were Caucasian. There were no other ethnic identities identified. Figure 3 shows the age range of the children served in calendar year 2021: 448% percent of the children served were age 5 or younger, 56% were age 6 to 10 and no children age 11 or older

were recorded in 2021.

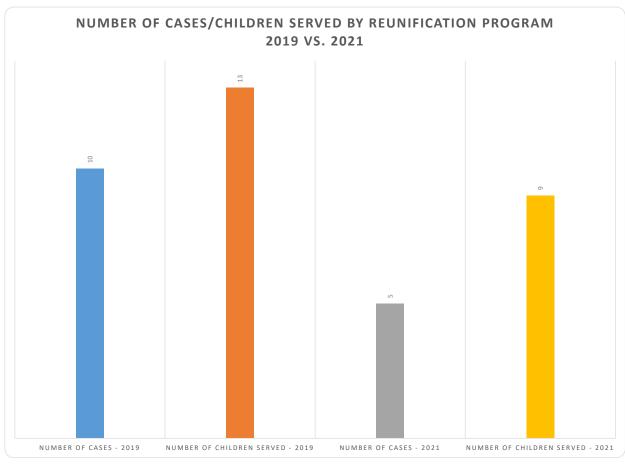
Figure 4 shows that of the children served, all were under the jurisdiction of the Department of Children and Family Services. No cases were referred by the Los Angeles District Attorney's office or through other sources such as Find the Children.

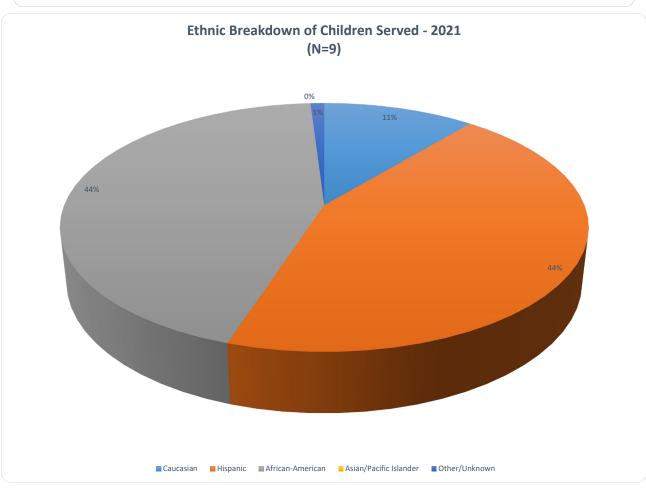
Figure 5 reflects trend data on the number of cases and children served by the Reunification Program for calendar year 2014 through 2021 (excluding data for years 2018 and 2020). Over the past 5-year period, the number of cases has averaged 31 per year, while the number of children served has averaged 43 per year. The number of cases and children served has fluctuated from year to year with 2014 still experiencing the greatest number of both cases (n=69) and children served (n=97). The significant spike in cases seen in 2014 cannot be explained by any one factor. This also holds true when trying to explain the reason for the notable decrease in referrals from 2013 to 2021.

<sup>1.</sup> A case represents a family and was referred to as such in earlier reports.

#### ICAN Child Abduction Task Force





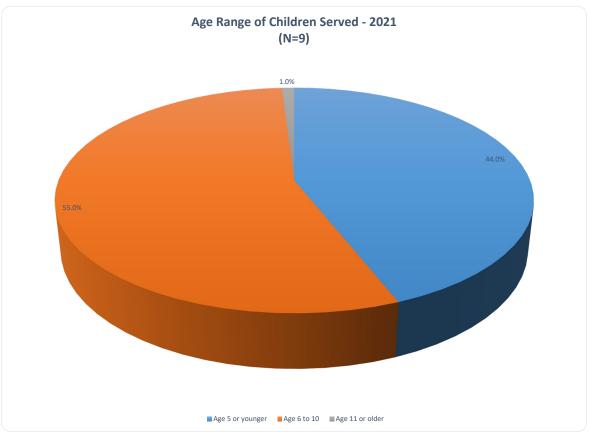


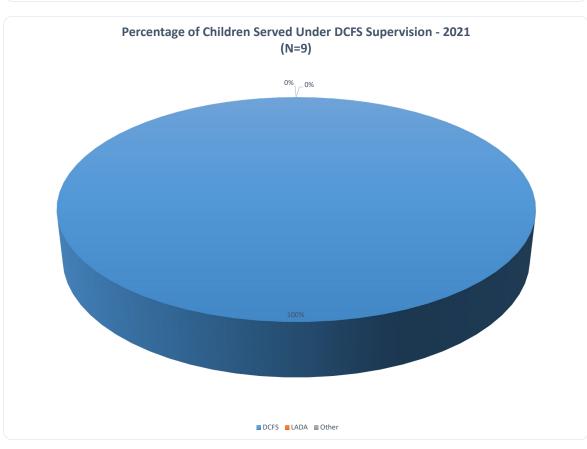






#### ICAN Child Abduction Task Force

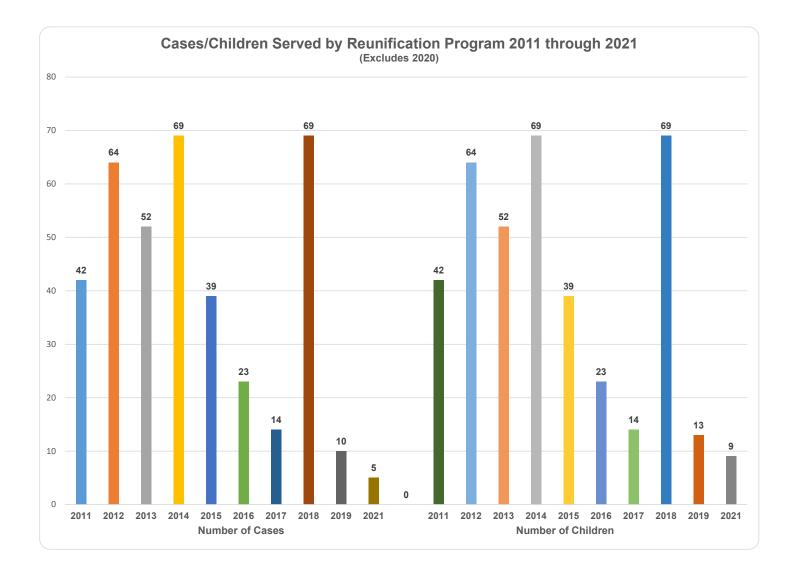






















# SECTION III: ICAN AGENCY REPORTS

Art by Bailey Moralez-Ramirez, ICAN Student Poster Art Contest



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# CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

The following information is for the 2021 ICAN Report. The statistics used for this report are from the calendar year 2020.

#### CHILD ABUSE CENTRAL INDEX FACT SHEET

The Department of Justice (DOJ) is mandated to maintain an index of all California reports of child abuse and severe neglect pursuant to Penal Code section 11170. The Child Abuse Central Index (CACI) was created in 1965 by the California State Legislature.

The DOJ is mandated to receive and enter CACI reports submitted by county welfare and probation departments, as defined in the Child Abuse and Neglect Reporting Act (CANRA) Article 2.5 of the Penal Code.

Child protective services agencies are required to report to the DOJ all investigated incidents of child abuse and severe neglect that have been determined to be substantiated.

Functioning as a pointer system, the CACI receives and stores reports of suspected child abuse, pointing citizens, and agencies to the original investigative files that are maintained by the submitting agency. It is the obligation of the requestor to obtain a copy of the original investigative report from the submitting agency and for drawing independent conclusions regarding the quality of the evidence disclosed and its relevance for making decisions regarding employment, licensing, or placement of a child. The CACI contains 608,373 incident records of child abuse and 651,537 individual suspect names.

For additional information about the CACI, visit the California Attorney General's website at: <a href="www.oag.ca.gov/childabuse">www.oag.ca.gov/childabuse</a>.

#### STATUTORILY MANDATED CACI FUNCTIONS

#### **INVESTIGATORY**

The CACI serves as an investigatory tool for child protection and law enforcement agencies investigating child abuse and severe neglect allegations, by providing information regarding child abuse reports previously submitted to the CACI involving the same suspect(s).

All incoming child abuse reports are entered and searched against the CACI entries to identify any prior reports of child abuse that involve the identified suspect(s). Additionally, the DOJ provides information on an expedited basis to child protection agencies for emergency child placement and to law enforcement as a child abuse investigative tool. During calendar year 2020, the DOJ conducted 23,358 expedited search



requests for investigatory purposes.

#### **REGULATORY**

The CACI regulatory functions include applicant search requests for employment, licensing, adoption, and temporary child placement.

The DOJ provides subsequent notification to licensing agencies when a new child abuse report is received and matched to an individual who has been previously licensed to have custodial or supervisory authority over a child or children.

During calendar year 2020, the DOJ responded to 5,688 Adam Walsh Act out-of-state foster care and adoption requests, and 1,406 citizen inquiry requests. 145,690 CACI searches were performed as a result of an applicant background check request.

#### DATA FACTS

Authorized agencies submitted 6,115 reports to the DOJ for entry into the CACI (See Figure 1).

- Physical abuse is the most prevalent type of abuse. 1,866 reports were submitted representing 33% of the total reports entered into the CACI. The other types of abuse reported are as follows: mental abuse 1,312 (22%), sexual abuse 1,484 (25%), severe neglect 1,379 (19%) and willful harming and/or corporal punishment 74 (1%).
- Of the 6,115 child abuse reports submitted, there were 2 reported deaths of a child. Los Angeles County submitted zero (0) of the child death reports.
- During 2020, Los Angeles County submitted 1,090 (18%) of 6,115 statewide total. The abuse determinations are as follows:
- a) 365 (20%) physical abuse
- b) 275 (21%) mental abuse
- c) 119 (9%) severe neglect
- d) 312 (21%) sexual abuse
- e) 19 (26%) willful harming and/or corporal punishment. (See Figure 2)

INQUIRIES MAY BE DIRECTED TO: California Department of Justice Child Abuse Central Index (CACI) P.O. Box 903387

Sacramento, CA 94203-3870

State of Child Abuse

Email: CACI-inquiry@doj.ca.gov



#### Figure 1

# 2020 CHILD ABUSE SUMMARY REPORTS ENTERED IN THE CHILD ABUSE CENTRAL INDEX (CACI)

#### FOR THE PERIOD OF JANUARY 1 - DECEMBER 31, 2020

County	Total	Physical	Mental	Severe Neglect	Sexual	Harming Corporal	Deaths*
Alameda	232	73	65	29	65	0	0
Alpine	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Amador	6	1	0	5	0	0	0
Butte	4	0	1	1	2	0	0
Calaveras	42	8	23	8	3	0	0
Colusa	5	2	1	1	1	0	0
Contra Costa	56	13	12	15	16	0	0
Del Norte	15	5	5	1	4	0	0
El Dorado	63	19	21	18	5	0	0
Fresno	262	98	31	59	73	1	0
Glenn	8	2	1	5	0	0	0
Humboldt	50	10	17	18	5	0	0
Imperial	12	5	6	1	0	0	0
Inyo	30	16	13	1	0	0	0
Kern	114	32	21	49	12	0	0
Kings	26	8	5	7	6	0	0
Lake	3	1	0	1	1	0	0
Lassen	25	6	15	4	0	0	0
Los Angeles	1090	365	275	119	312	19	0
Madera	26	5	8	2	11	0	0
Marin	19	7	4	5	3	0	0
Mariposa	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Mendocino	55	17	8	18	6	6	0
Merced	97	27	21	20	29	0	0
Modoc	4	3	0	0	1	0	0
Mono	1	1	0	0	0	0	0
Monterey	41	9	6	11	15	0	0
Napa	25	5	8	8	4	0	0
Nevada	4	1	2	1	0	0	0
Orange	744	182	59	316	187	0	0
Placer	76	21	40	8	7	0	0
Plumas	8	3	5	0	0	0	0
Riverside	293	109	14	36	107	27	0







Figure 1 (continued)

# 2020 CHILD ABUSE SUMMARY REPORTS ENTERED IN THE CHILD ABUSE CENTRAL INDEX (CACI) FOR THE PERIOD OF JANUARY 1 - DECEMBER 31, 2020

		FLINIOD	I VANUAN	III-DEGE	inder oi,	2020	
County	Total	Physical	Mental	Severe Neglect	Sexual	Harming Corporal	Deaths*
Sacramento	170	87	18	31	21	13	0
San Benito	6	3	0	2	1	0	0
San Bernardino	717	249	148	126	192	2	1
San Diego	475	128	102	130	113	2	0
San Francisco	55	26	15	4	9	1	0
San Joaquin	271	72	19	66	114	0	0
San Luis Obispo	9	3	0	4	2	0	0
San Mateo	43	14	12	10	7	0	0
Santa Barbara	76	30	25	10	11	0	0
Santa Clara	102	37	38	14	13	0	0
Santa Cruz	9	0	1	5	3	0	0
Shasta	231	33	123	57	18	0	0
Sierra	1	0	1	0	0	0	0
Siskiyou	22	3	4	13	1	1	0
Solano	45	19	2	12	12	0	0
Sonoma	78	16	33	18	11	0	0
Stanislaus	153	26	31	53	43	0	0
Sutter	14	5	5	3	1	0	0
Tehama	18	8	0	10	0	0	0
Trinity	13	0	8	3	2	0	0
Tulare	33	16	1	5	10	1	0
Tuolumne	6	2	3	1	0	0	0
Ventura	58	13	7	26	11	1	0
Yolo	56	15	22	8	11	0	0
Yuba	18	7	7	1	3	0	1
TOTALS	6,115	1,866	1,312	1,379	1,484	74	2
PERCENTAGE	100%	33%	22%	19%	25%	1%	

<sup>\*</sup> DENOTES THE NUMBER OF REPORTED CHILD DEATHS. THE TOTAL PERCENTAGE OF ABUSE DETERMINATIONS DOES NOT INCLUDE THE CHILD DEATH DATA.







Figure 2	Figure 2					
NU	MBER OF CA		SUBMITTED		GELES COUN	ITY
		JANUARY	1 - DECEMBE	ER 31, 2020		
County	Number	%	Physical Abuse	%	Mental Abuse	%
Los Angeles	1,090	18%	365	20%	275	21%
STATEWIDE TOTAL	6,115		1,866		1,313	
County	Severe Neglect	%	Sexual Abuse	%	Harming/ Corporal	%
LOS ANGELES	119	9%	312	21%	19	26%
STATEWIDE TOTAL	1,380		1,484		74	

#### **Glossary of Terms**

**CACI**: Child Abuse Central Index.

**CANRA**: Child Abuse and Neglect Reporting Act as specified in Penal Code section 11164 et. seq.

<u>Authorized Agencies</u>: Authorized agencies are required to report to the CACI all investigated incidents of child abuse and severe neglect that have been determined to be substantiated.

<u>Substantiated Report</u>: Defined in Penal Code section 11165.12 (b), a "substantiated report" means a report that is determined by the investigator who conducted the investigation to constitute child abuse or neglect; based upon evidence that makes it more likely than not that child abuse or negelct has occurred.







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# LOS ANGELES POLICE DEPARTMENT

#### **ABUSED CHILD SECTION**

The Abused Child Section, Juvenile Division, was created to provide a high level of expertise to the investigation of child abuse cases. Juvenile Division has Citywide responsibility for follow-up investigations of all complaints involving physical and/or sexually abused children that meet the following criteria:

- Homicide of a child under 11 years of age where it appears the parent, stepparent, legal guardian, livein boyfriend/girlfriend of the parent or guardian, or other person acting in the capacity of parent or legal guardian [parents(s)/guardian(s)] is responsible;
- Undetermined deaths of children under 11 years of age;
- Deaths of children under 11 years of age wherein neglect or action by the parent(s)/guardian(s) placed the child in an endangered situation that resulted in death;
- Cases of hospitalization as a result of possible child abuse (critical injury) and the parent cannot provide a reasonable explanation for the injury;
- Cases when medical personnel (physicians, nurses and other medical professional) have deemed the
  mechanism that caused a critical injury as non-accidental. For these types of cases, a geographic
  Area supervisor shall seek advice and approval from Juvenile Division prior to transferring investigative
  responsibility from their respective divisions
- Hospitalization for failure to thrive, severe neglect, or failure to seek medical treatment;
- All other child abuse; physical aggravated assault wherein the suspect is known to be 18 years of age and over; and

#### All Sexual Abuse Cases that meet one or more of the below criteria:

- Unlawful Sexual Intercourse that involves an adult suspect over 21 years of age and a victim under 16 years of age which are prosecutable under Penal Code Section 261.5(d);
- Sexual Battery/Lewd Acts Upon a Child that involves an adult suspect, 18 years of age or older, and a victim who is under 14 years of age. Additionally, cases wherein the victim is 14 or 15 years of age and the suspect is more than 10 years older than the victim which are prosecutable as a felony under Penal Code Section 288; and,
- Child Molesting/Annoying when the suspect has a prior conviction for the following: Penal Code Sections: 647.6,261,264.1,269,285,286,288a, 288.5 or 289; any of which involved a minor under 16



#### Los Angeles Police Department

years of age. The Child Molesting/Annoying would be felonious conduct due to the prior conviction.

 All Rape I & II crimes if the victim was under 18 years of age and the suspect was 18 years of age and over at the time the crime occurred;

### The Abused Child Section is also responsible for the following:

- Tracking Suspected Child Abuse Reports (SCARs);
- Assisting LAPD personnel and outside organizations by providing information, training, and evaluation of child abuse policies and procedures;
- Implementing modifications of child abuse policies and procedures as needed;
- Reviewing selected child abuse cases to ensure that LAPD policies are being followed; and
- Acting as the LAPD's representative to, and maintaining liaison with, various public and private organizations concerned with the prevention, investigation, and treatment of child abuse.

#### INTERNET CRIMES AGAINST CHILDREN UNIT

The Internet Crimes Against Children Unit (ICAC), Juvenile Division, is responsible for seeking out and investigating violations of state and federal laws pertaining to the exploitation of children when:

- The sexual predator used the Internet to contact the child and lured the child away for the purpose of having sex with the child;
- The child pornography case involves the Internet, including production, distribution, and possession of child pornography;
- The children are under the age of 16; and
- There has been substantial felony sexual conduct.

#### The ICAC Unit is also responsible for:

- The investigation of child pornography websites, email spam, and Cyber Tips received from the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children (NCMEC);
- Managing the Los Angeles Regional Internet Crimes Against Children (LAICAC) Task Force;
- Conducting Internet safety presentations for children, parents, schools, and community

groups; and

 Providing Internet-related child exploitation advice and expertise to the LAPD, including training for LAPD schools.

#### **GEOGRAPHIC AREAS**

The LAPD maintains 21 community police stations known as Geographic Areas. Each Area is responsible for the following juvenile investigations relating to child abuse and endangerment cases:

- Unfit homes, endangering, and dependent child cases;
- · Child abuse (Physical) Simple Assault;
- Any physical or sexual abuse wherein the suspect is known to be under 18 years of age;
- Child on Child sexual incidents;
- Child Molesting/Annoying when the suspect is unknown, and/or the suspect has no prior conviction for Penal Code Sections: 647.6, 261, 264.1, 269, 285, 286, 288a, 288.5, or 289;
- Cases in which the child receives an injury, but is not the primary object of the attack;
- Child abduction cases; and
- Any other physical or sexual abuse of a child that does not meet the criteria for Abused Child Section, Juvenile Division
- Geographic Areas are referenced on the following pages in Figures 2, 5, and 7.







LOS ANGELES POLICE DEPARTMENT 2020 CRIMES INVESTIGATED BY JUVENILE DIVISION					
TYPE NUMBER % of TOTAL					
Physical Abuse (Includes Simple and Aggravated Assault)	86	7.26%			
Sexual Abuse	939	79.31%			
Endangering	13	1.10%			
Homicide	6	0.51%			
Others	140	11.82%			
TOTALS	1,184	100%			

Figure 1: Indicates the number of crimes investigated by Juvenile Division in 2020.

Figure 2  LOS ANGELES POLICE DEPARTMENT  2020 CRIMES INVESTIGATED BY GEOGRAPHIC AREAS						
TYPE NUMBER % of TOTAL						
Physical Abuse	154	11.87%				
Sexual Abuse (Includes Child Annoying)	873	67.31%				
Endangering (Includes Child Abandonment)	270	20.82%				
Homicide 0 0%						
TOTALS	1,297	100%				

Figure 2: Indicates the number of crimes investigated by Geographic Areas in 2020.

Figure 3  LOS ANGELES POLICE DEPARTMENT  2020 OTHER REPORTS INVESTIGATED BY JUVENILE DIVISION							
TYPE NUMBER % of TOTAL							
Injury	47	0.27%					
Death	49	0.28%					
Exploitation	51	0.30%					
Internet Crime	1,230	7.07%					
<b>SCAR Reports</b> 1,6020 92.08%							
TOTALS	1,7397	100%					

Figure 3: Indicates the number of other investigations, of a child abuse nature, conducted by Juvenile Division in 2020.

Figure 4  LOS ANGELES POLICE DEPARTMENT  ARRESTS CONDUCTED BY JUVENILE DIVISION IN 2020						
TYPE NUMBER % of TOTAL						
Homicide (187 PC)	3	3.8%				
Child Molest (288 PC)	47	59.49%				
Child Endangering (273a PC) 2 2.53%						
<b>Child Abuse (273d PC)</b> 22 27.85%						
<b>Others</b> 5 6.33%						
TOTALS	79	100%				

Figure 4: Indicates the number of arrests conducted by Juvenile Division in 2020.



#### Los Angeles Police Department

Figure 5  LOS ANGELES POLICE DEPARTMENT  ARRESTS CONDUCTED BY GEOGRAPHIC AREAS IN 2020						
TYPE NUMBER % of TOTAL						
Homicide (187 PC)	0	0%				
Child Molest (288 PC)	98	34.27%				
Child Endangering (273a PC)	124	43.36%				
Child Abuse (273d PC)	31	10.84%				
Others	33	11.53%				
TOTALS	286	100%				

Figure 5: Indicates the number of arrests conducted by Geographic Areas in 2020.

Figure 6  LOS ANGELES POLICE DEPARTMENT  DEPENDENT CHILDREN TAKEN INTO PROTECTIVE CUSTODY BY JUVENILE DIVISION  IN 2020						
TYPE	NUMBER	% of TOTAL				
300 WIC (Welfare Institution Code)	109	100%				
TOTALS	109	100%				

**Figure 6:** Indicates number of dependent children taken into protective custody by Juvenile Division in 2020. NOTE: Juvenile Division no longer separates 300 WIC by category.

Figure 7  LOS ANGELES POLICE DEPARTMENT  DEPENDENT CHILDREN TAKEN INTO PROTECTIVE CUSTODY GEOGRAPHIC AREA IN  2020						
TYPE	NUMBER	% of TOTAL				
300 WIC (Physical Abuse)	117	41.79%				
300 WIC (Sexual Abuse)	77	27.50%				
300 WIC (Endangered/Neglect)	86	30.71%				
TOTALS	280	100%				

Figure 7: Indicates the number of dependent children taken into protective custody by Geographic Areas in 2020.

Figure 8 LOS ANGELES POLICE DEPARTMENT - THE AGE CATEGORIES OF CHILDREN WHO WERE VICTIMS OF CHILD ABUSE IN 2020									
TYPE	0-4 YRS	5-9 YRS	10-14 YRS	15-17 YRS	TOTAL				
Physical Abuse	33	26	50	42	151				
Sexual Abuse	72	172	309	95	648				
Endangering	118	88	44	18	268				
TOTALS	223	286	403	155	1,067				

Figure 8: Indicates the age categories of children who were victims of child abuse in 2020.

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#### LOS ANGELES POLICE DEPARTMENT - 2020 CHILD ABUSE FINDINGS

#### **Juvenile Division**

- The total investigations (crime and non-crime) conducted by the unit in 2020 (19,878) showed a decrease of (30.43 percent) from the number of investigations conducted in 2019 (28,573).
- Adult arrests by the unit in 2020 (79) showed a decrease of (12.22 percent) from the number of arrests made in 2019 (90)
- The number of dependent children cases investigated by the unit in 2020 (109) showed a decrease of (41.4 percent) from the number investigated in 2019 (186).

#### **GEOGRAPHIC AREAS**

- The total investigations conducted by the Areas in 2020 (1,297) showed a decrease of (23.80 percent) from 2019 (1,704).
- Adult arrests made by the Areas in 2020 (286) showed a decrease of (2.39 percent) from 2019 (293).
- The number of dependent children handled by the Areas in 2020 (280) showed a decrease of (13.58 percent) from the number handled in 2019 (324).

Figure 9  LOS ANGELES POLICE DEPARTMENT  COMPARISON OF 2019 AND 2020							
TYPE	2019	2020	% of CHANGE				
Total Investigations	28,573	19,878	-30.43%				
Total Adult Arrests	373	365	-2.14%				
Dependent Children	499	389	- 22.04%				

Figure 9: Indicates a comparison of 2019 and 20 totals from Juvenile Division and Geographic Areas, and the percentage of change between the two years.

#### ABUSED CHILD UNIT FIVE-YEAR TRENDS

The following charts represent the Abused Child Unit's five-year trends in the respective areas.



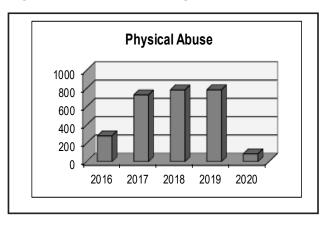
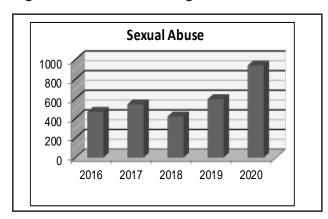


Figure 11: Crimes Investigated







#### Los Angeles Police Department

Figure 12: Crimes Investigated

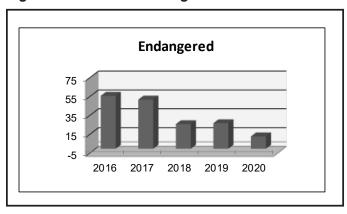


Figure 13: Crimes Investigated

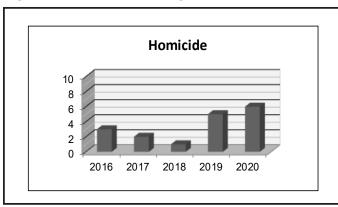


Figure 14: Other Investigations

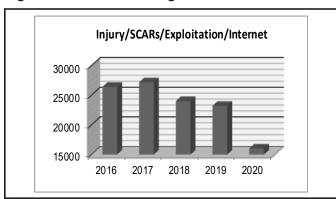


Figure 15: Other Investigations

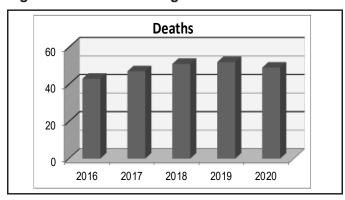
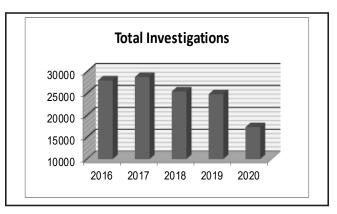


Figure 16: Total Investigations



#### **GLOSSARY**

**ADW** – Assault With a Deadly Weapon.

**Child** – A person under the age of 18 years.

Child Endangerment – The minor's sibling has been abused or ne glected. This title can also be used when a person causes or permits <u>any child to suffer</u>, or inflicts on, unjustifiable physical pain or mental suffering, or having or willfully causes the child to be placed in a situation where their health is endangered.

**Child Neglect** – The negligent treatment or the maltreatment of a child by a person responsible for the child's welfare under circumstances indicating harm or threatened harm.

**Physical Abuse** – Any inflicted trauma through non-accidental means.

**Sexual Abuse** – Any touching with a sexual context.

**Sexual Exploitation** – As defined by Penal Code Section 11165, subdivision (b) (2), sexual exploitation includes conduct in violation of the following: Penal Code Section 311.2 (Pornography), Penal Code Section 311.3 (Minors and Pornography), Penal Code Section 288 (Lewd and Lascivious Acts with a Child), and Penal Code Section 288a (Oral Copulation).









# OFFICE OF THE LOS ANGELES CITY ATTORNEY

#### INTRODUCTION

The Los Angeles City Attorney plays a leading role in shaping the future of Los Angeles by fighting to improve the quality of life in our neighborhoods, reducing gang activity, preventing gun violence, standing up for consumers and the elderly, protecting our environment and much more. The City Attorney's Office writes every municipal law for the City of Los Angeles and advises the City Council, Mayor and all City departments and commissions. The Office also defends the City in litigation, brings lawsuits on behalf of the People and prosecutes misdemeanor crimes such as domestic violence, driving under the influence, gun violence and vandalism. The Office strives every day to help build a safe and strong Los Angeles.

#### **OVERVIEW OF THE CITY ATTORNEY'S OFFICE**

The Los Angeles City Attorney's Office consists of three core legal branches: Civil Liability Management, Municipal Counsel, and Criminal and Complex Litigation.

The City Attorney is Los Angeles' chief prosecutor, representing the People of the State of California in all criminal misdemeanor cases in the City of Los Angeles. With six branches spanning the City, the Office prosecutes a wide range of criminal activity, including vehicular, property, domestic violence, child abuse and exploitation, and violent gang crimes.

The initial step in prosecuting misdemeanor offenses consists of a deputy city attorney who reviews police reports received for filing consideration. The City Attorney's Office receives these reports either directly from a law enforcement agency or administrative agency, or as a referral from the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office.

The filing attorney decides whether to file a criminal complaint against an individual, set the matter for a City Attorney Hearing, or reject the case. The filed cases are prosecuted by a deputy city attorney at one of the six branch locations or by specialized prosecution units.

Upon disposition of a case by plea or conviction, the defendant is sentenced by the court. Sentence advocacy is an important role for a prosecutor, as part of the criminal justice system. A defendant may be sentenced to jail, a fine, and/or probation and may be ordered to make restitution to the victim. Conditions of probation may include appropriate counseling, attendance at an alcohol or batterer's treatment program, adherence to a criminal protective order, fines, parenting classes, or other terms of probation that aim at preventing recidivism.

#### **FAMILY VIOLENCE OPERATIONS**

Every day, the Office of the City Attorney confronts the serious problems of child abuse, neglect, exploitation and technology-facilitated crimes against children. The City Attorney Family Violence Operations division



#### Office of the Los Angeles City Attorney

handles all crimes against children, along with elder abuse, stalking, and the most serious and difficult domestic violence cases handled by the Office. Efforts are multi-faceted, including specialized vertical prosecution, multi-agency state and federal task force participation, victim support services, legislative initiatives, law enforcement training, and community outreach as described below.

#### CHILD ABUSE PROSECUTION SECTION

The City Attorney's Office handles physical and sexual child abuse and neglect matters primarily through its specialized Child Abuse Prosecution Section, in which experienced prosecutors vertically prosecute all cases of violence against children. Each individual case is assigned, from the outset, to a team comprised of a prosecutor, victim advocate, and an investigator. Skilled and dedicated victim advocates work with prosecutors to provide support to child victims, witnesses, and their families. Their combined efforts ensure better conviction rates and stricter sentencing, while providing needed resources and aid to victims of child abuse.

The efforts of the Office go beyond prosecution. The Office of the City Attorney advocates for additional support, including financial assistance for child victims and witnesses, through the Los Angeles City Attorney Victim Assistance Program.

#### CHILDREN EXPOSED TO VIOLENCE INITIATIVE

The City Attorney launched an important initiative to address the issue of children in our community who are exposed to community and domestic violence. Children Exposed To Violence is a comprehensive initiative, aimed at assuring that the professionals of the criminal justice system are trauma-informed, and thus better able to recognize and properly address children who are exposed to trauma as a result of their exposure to violence.

Law enforcement and prosecutors have frequent encounters with traumatized children. Many of these children encounter the criminal justice system as direct victims or witnesses to violence, and some as perpetrators. It's important that law enforcement and the criminal justice system recognize these children as survivors of trauma, in order to intervene and reduce the potential negative impact (re-traumatization) of the system on them.

We have conducted a series of ongoing trainings to help

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staff understand the effect of exposure to violence and the impact of violence on child victims and witnesses. This helps to achieve the goal of a systemic change and ensure that all members of the criminal justice system, including law enforcement officers, social workers, prosecutors and relevant staff, work in a trauma informed manner.

In 2020, the Director of Child Abuse Policy and Prevention conducted trainings to educate law enforcement about Children Exposed to Violence as crime was rising due to COVID and children were trapped in houses due to school closures with very little or no contact by mandated reporters. She also spoke about Children Exposed to Violence at conferences and to public health and social work classes at UCLA and Cal State Los Angeles.

### CHILDREN EXPOSED TO GUN VIOLENCE The REACH Team $^{\text{TM}}$

In the Fall of 2018, and through all of 2019, the City Attorney launched the Children Exposed to Gun Violence (CEGV™) project in the community of Watts, in South Los Angeles. In partnership with the Los Angeles Police Department and the non-profit Children's Institute, we put together a crisis response team called the REACH Team™, aimed to ensure children and families exposed to gun violence receive appropriate and timely crisis intervention and support services through Children's Institute and partner organizations. In 2020, the CEGV project expanded geographically from Watts to all of Southeast Division of the Los Angeles Police Department. The team went from one care coordinator and a part-time therapist to three care coordinators and a full time therapist. The REACH Team™ was able to increase our capacity to help more children and families exposed to gun violence.

As a part of the program, the L.A. City Attorney's Office and Children's Institute will regularly conduct community outreach within Watts schools, housing developments, community organizations and non-profits. Children and families in Watts who have been exposed to gun violence in the past can also reach out for support.

The REACH Team also provides care packages, and trauma therapy for up to six sessions. Children who need long term services are referred in house to Children's Institute. The families are also assisted with other needs through resources and referrals.



#### Office of the Los Angeles City Attorney



## PARTNERSHIP WITH STUART HOUSE - CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE CASES

The City Attorney's Office partners with the UCLA Rape Treatment Center and Stuart House on child sexual abuse cases. Stuart House is a nationally recognized multi-disciplinary center that was created to address the needs of children who have been sexually abused. Its purpose is to serve as a one-stop location for child sexual assault victims, from their initial interview with law enforcement and prosecutors, to comprehensive treatment, including long term therapy services. Stuart House is a warm, child and family-friendly environment intended to make victims and their families as comfortable as possible throughout the process. Victims are interviewed by a social worker, who asks questions in a non-leading way, to allow the child to disclose as much detail about the abuse as possible. The child is provided an acute or non-acute medical exam if necessary at the nearby Rape Treatment Center. Every child, whether a criminal case is filed or not, is given the opportunity to receive cost-free counseling by therapists who are experts in treating child sexual abuse.

Currently, the Los Angeles Police Department has seven full-time detectives housed and working on cases at Stuart House. The District Attorney has five full-time prosecutors assigned to handle felony child sexual abuse cases at Stuart House, and the City Attorney's Office has a dedicated child sexual abuse position for a prosecutor from our office to work there full time.

Stuart House handles misdemeanor child sexual abuse cases. In addition, DCFS currently has two full-time social workers assigned to handle the child protection aspect of the cases. Trained advocates from Stuart House work with the victims and their families to help them through the court process. They have a small mock courtroom to help kids know what to expect when they go to court.

#### SPECIAL TRIALS UNIT

The Special Trials Unit prosecutes certain child sexual abuse and exploitation cases. Special Trials works with local, county, state, and federal law enforcement agencies as a direct filing resource, accepts referrals from other prosecutorial agencies, and joins as a partner in various task force operations. The unit has primary responsibility for filing review and prosecution of misdemeanor offenses involving the following categories of child sexual abuse and exploitation:

Child Pornography: This category includes cases where there are hard copy or digital images/videos on a camera, video recorder, cell phone, computer or any other digital recording or storage device depicting children engaged in sexual conduct or showing a child's genital, pubic, or rectal areas. Child pornography can also include clothed images of minors, even where the genitals are not visible or discernible through the clothing.

Child Sexual Exploitation Through Technology: This category of crimes includes those offenses involving the use of technology to sexually exploit children. It includes the use of any photographic or video device, cell phone, computer, telephone, electronic communication or the Internet, and any attempt to record or transmit sexual images of children.

### THE NEIGHBORHOOD SCHOOL SAFETY PROGRAM

The Neighborhood School Safety Program (NSSP) is a comprehensive crime reduction strategy that promotes a safe environment in neighborhoods surrounding schools and in the routes students travel to and from school. The program centers around addressing environmental concerns, collaborating with the participating school principals and parents to address safety concerns, and implementing innovative approaches to deter quality of life crimes occurring in the community that impact the schools' safety. During the 2020 school year, 23 cases were prosecuted involving crimes that impacted student safety, and a total of 43 schools were added to the Program.

#### **TEEN COURT**

As part of the City Attorney's Office Neighborhood Prosecutor Program, locally assigned prosecutors work closely with LAUSD personnel, Los Angeles County Juvenile Probation officers, and the Los Angeles County Superior Court to handle actual juvenile criminal offenses in a courtroom setting as an alternative to juveniles appearing in delinquency juvenile court. Once a juvenile agrees to have his case heard before the Teen Court, a sitting Los Angeles Superior Court judge presides over the proceedings. The juvenile must bring a parent or guardian to the proceedings, which are held at a school site other than the juvenile's home school. The students participating in Teen Court act as jurors on the case and are allowed to ask questions of the defendant and his guardian.



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After the case is presented by both sides, the students deliberate, under the guidance of the neighborhood prosecutor or another volunteer attorney, as to the guilt or innocence of the juvenile and what sentence they think she/he should receive. If the judge agrees with the "jury," the youth is sentenced to the Teen Court's recommendations and must adhere to the terms and conditions or face a violation of his Teen Court probationary conditions.

Since the March 2020 pandemic, Teen Court was cancelled. Hopefully, it will resume soon.

#### TRUANCY PREVENTION PROGRAM

In 2002, the Office of the Los Angeles City Attorney created the Truancy Prevention Program to address the problems of truant students. Through letters, brochures, presentations and hearings, the program teaches parents of their legal responsibility to ensure that their children attend school.

Truancy Prevention staff also support the efforts of the Los Angeles Unified School District at School Attendance Review Teams (SART) and School Attendance Review Boards (SARB). Similarly, Truancy Prevention staff work with the Los Angeles Police Department and Los Angeles School Police Department to conduct community outreach forums and individual family outreach.

Since its inception, the Truancy Prevention Program (TPP) has educated over 376,312 families about the importance of attending school and the legal consequences for parents for failing to send their child to school. The program's letters have directed 56,800 families to attend truancy prevention presentations. Approximately 6,208 families were referred for further City Attorney intervention, including one-on-one meetings. TPP Staff have also served as panelists at approximately 1,232 SARB hearings. To date, 148 parents have been prosecuted under the Education and Penal Codes. If parents are prosecuted, they can have their case dismissed by ensuring their child's attendance.

During the 2019-2020 school year, TPP implemented truancy prevention efforts at the following schools:

#### **North Hollywood Division:**

James Madison Middle School Sun Valley Magnet School

#### **Van Nuys Division:**

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Robert Fulton College Preparatory School Sylvan Park Elementary School

#### Foothill Division:

Arminta Street Elementary School Pacoima Middle School Richard E. Byrd Middle School

#### **Mission Division:**

Francisco Sepulveda Middle School Vista Middle School

#### **West Valley Division:**

James A. Mulholland Middle School

#### **Newton Division:**

Dr. Macy McLeod Bethune Middle School Estrella Elementary School Forty-Ninth Street Elementary School

#### **Topanga Division:**

John A. Sutter Middle School Stanley Mosk Elementary School

#### **Harbor Division:**

Wilmington Middle School STEAM Magnet

#### **Hollenbeck Division:**

El Sereno Middle School Gates Elementary School Griffith STEAM Magnet Middle School Sheridan Street Elementary School Stevenson Middle School Lorena Street Elementary School

#### **Southeast Division:**

96th Street Elementary School Bret Hart Preparatory Middle School Mervyn Dymally High School

#### **Southwest Division:**

Angeles Mesa Elementary School
Audubon Middle School
Hillcrest Drive Elementary School
James A. Foshay Learning Center (K-12)
John Muir Middle School
Susan Miller Dorsey High School
Thomas Bradley Global Awareness Magnet School

#### 77th Division:

Augustus K. Hawkins High School-Community Design and Gaming (CDAGS) Augustus K. Hawkins High School-Community Health Advocates (CHAS)

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Augustus K. Hawkins High School –Responsible Indigenous Social Entrepreneurship (RISE)
La Salle Avenue Elementary School
Normandie Avenue Elementary School

#### **Pacific Division:**

Marina Del Rey Middle School

#### **Rampart Division:**

John Liechty Middle School

#### **Olympic Division:**

Berendo Middle School Magnolia Avenue Elementary School

#### **Devonshire Division:**

Patrick Henry Middle School Oliver Wendell Holmes Middle School Alfred B. Nobel Charter Middle School

The goal of TPP is to keep children in school, not to prosecute parents. Prosecution will be a tool of last resort, when efforts to educate and assist the family have failed.

#### GANG AND GUN PROSECUTION SECTION

The Gang and Gun Prosecution Section (GGPS) is responsible for the city-wide prosecution of gang and gun crimes. The Section is responsible for the vertical prosecution, from filing to appeal, of firearm-related crimes, including possession of loaded and concealed firearms by prohibited persons, brandishing, assault and discharge, assault weapons, gun storage violations, and transactional crimes involving a firearm. The Section also vertically prosecutes gang-related misdemeanor crimes, as well as graffiti and vandalism crimes. In addition, the GGPS works in partnership with multi-agency law enforcement teams, such as the CLEAR (Community Law Enforcement and Recovery) program. GGPS also administers the Gang Alternative Sentencing and Removal Petition Programs, as well as supports the Gun Violence Prevention Coordinator.

#### HEARING PROGRAM

The Los Angeles City Attorney's Hearing Program offers an innovative approach to handling matters in which a crime has occurred, but criminal prosecution may not be the best way to address the problem. In some minor child abuse and neglect matters, cases are assigned to hearing officers who review the facts. They educate participants as to what constitutes

child abuse, admonish respondents about the consequences of their behavior, and make referrals to a variety of services, including parenting classes, drug and alcohol treatment programs, and anger management programs. The intervention of hearing officers in these matters may prevent subsequent offenses against children.

In 2020, there were 339 child abuse, neglect, sexual abuse and exploitation matters referred to the City Attorney's Office Hearing Program, after review by an attorney for filing consideration.

#### **VICTIM ASSISTANCE PROGRAM**

The Los Angeles City Attorney's Victim Assistance Program is a State grant-funded program that assists victims of crime by providing state mandated services pursuant to Penal Code section 13835.5. These services include crisis intervention, court support, resource referrals and assistance to victims in filing State of California Victims of Crime Compensation Applications. The program is funded by the State of California Restitution Fund, which is financed from fines and penalty assessments imposed on convicted criminals.

There are 19 Victim Service Coordinators located in branch offices throughout the City of Los Angeles. Of the 19 Victim Service Coordinators, 17 are located directly in Los Angeles Police Department Divisions.

In 2020, the Los Angeles City Attorney's Office Victim Assistance Program assisted 11,429 new victims of crime and assisted in the collection of \$4,086,621.96 in medical and wage losses, mental health counseling expenses, and funeral/burial expenses, relocation, home security, support loss, home modification, dental and crime scene clean-up.

The program assists victims of all types of crime, including: robbery, assault, drunk driving, hit and run, sexual assault, domestic violence, child physical and sexual abuse, elder abuse, hate crimes, and aggravated assault. Additionally, the program assists family members of homicide victims.

In 2020, there were 11,429 new victims referred to the program. Of the 11,429 new victims, there were 794 new victims of child sexual and physical abuse.

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#### Office of the Los Angeles City Attorney

#### **STATISTICS**

In 2020, this Office reviewed a total of 65,093 matters and filed 23,791 cases. Of all reviewed cases, 1,413 involved ICAN-related matters. Of the reviewed cases, 391 were filed. As a result of this continued commitment and dedication, Los Angeles is a safer place for children and families to live, work, and go to school.

## BREAKDOWN OF ICAN-RELATED CHARGES

The following information provides a breakdown of ICAN-related charges and data involving child abuse prosecutions by the Office of the Los Angeles City Attorney.

#### SEXUAL ABUSE AND EXPLOITATION

In 2020, the Office reviewed 244 child sexual abuse and exploitation investigations regarding violations of the following California Penal Code sections:

Code			
Section	Description		
261.5(a)	Unlawful sexual intercourse with a minor, who is a under the age of 18 years		
261.5(b-d)	Engages in an act of unlawful sexual intercourse with a minor, who is not more than three years older or three years younger than the perpetrator		
288a(b)(1)	Oral Copulation with a Person Under 18		
288(c)1	Lewd Acts with a Child Under 15/10 Year Age Difference		
288.2(a)(1)	Sending harmful matter to a minor		
288.2(a)(2)	Sending harmful matter to a minor (non-sexual)		
288.4(a)(1)	Arranging a meeting with a minor to expose oneself		
289(h)	Sexual Penetration with Person Under 18		
311.3(a)	Sexual Exploitation of a Child		
311.11(a)	Possession of Child Pornography		
647.6(a)(1)	Annoying or Molesting a Child under the age of 18 years		

647.6(a)(2)	Engaging in conduct with an adult whom they believe to be a child	
	when motivated by an abnormal sexual interest in a child	

Of the 244 criminal investigations presented for filing consideration, 60 cases were filed and prosecuted as misdemeanors, 42 were referred to the City Attorney Hearing Program, and 142 were rejected. There was a disposition of 37 sexual abuse and exploitation cases. Of those 37 cases, 29 resulted in guilty pleas or convictions following jury trials.

#### CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT

In 2020, the Office reviewed 1,169 child abuse and neglect investigations involving violations of the California Penal Code sections listed below:

Code Section	Description	
271	Desertion of Child under 14 with Intent to Abandon	
271a	Abandonment or Failure to Maintain Child under 14	
272	Contributing to the Delinquency of Persons Under 18	
273a(a)	Willful Harm or Injury to Child	
273a(b)	Willful Harm or Injury to Child	
273d(a)	Corporal Punishment or Injury to Child	
278.5	Child Concealment/Non-Custodial Person	

Of those 1,169 investigations, 331 cases were filed and prosecuted as misdemeanors, 297 were referred to the City Attorney Hearing Program, and 541 were rejected. There were dispositions in 230 child abuse and neglect cases. Of those 230 cases, 191 resulted in guilty pleas or convictions following jury trials.

#### **CONCLUSION**

The primary goal of the Office of the City Attorney is to provide residents, children, and families of Los Angeles a safe place to live and to improve the quality of life for the City's residents at home, at school, at work, and at play. Great efforts are made each year to meet that goal and to ensure that all Los Angeles children have the opportunity for a safe and bright future.









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## SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA, COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

#### **COURT OVERVIEW**

Juvenile Court proceedings are governed by the Welfare and Institutions Code (WIC), referred to hereinafter as the Code. Through the Code, the legislative branch of government sets the parameters for the Court and other public agencies to establish programs and services which are designed to provide protection, support, or care of children; provide protective services to the fullest extent deemed necessary by the Juvenile Court, Probation Department, or other public agencies designated by the Board of Supervisors to perform the duties prescribed by the Code; and ensure that the rights and the physical, mental, or moral welfare of children are not violated or threatened by their present circumstances or environment (WIC §19).

The Juvenile Court has the authority to interpret, administer and assure compliance with the laws enumerated in the Code such that the protection and safety of the public and of each child under the jurisdiction of the Juvenile Court is assured, and the child's family ties are preserved and strengthened whenever possible. Children are removed from parental custody only when necessary for the child's welfare or for the safety and protection of the public. The child and his/her family are provided reunification services whenever the Juvenile Court determines removal is necessary.

The Los Angeles County Juvenile Division is headed by the Presiding Judge of the Juvenile Court and encompasses courts that adjudicate Dependency, Adoption, Delinquency, Status Offenses, and Non-Minor Dependents cases. Under the direction of Presiding Judge Eric C. Taylor, the Court's Here for You | Safe For You plan was implemented due to the COVID-19 pandemic. This response permitted continued access to justice through the fair, timely and efficient resolution of all cases by conducting hearings via WebEx. This has lead to lasting changes to court operations. Part of the Court's Here for You | Safe For You plan, WebEx provided a safe and convenient alternative to in-person appearances. This technology allowed parties to appear in court via video. There were over 43,000 WebEx hearings held in 2020. WebEx eliminated driving and parking costs for parents and caretakers as well as assisted with social distancing protocols during that time.

Delinquency proceedings involve children under the age of 18 who are alleged to have committed a delinquent act (conduct that would be criminal if committed by an adult) (WIC § 602). Status offense proceedings involve children who are alleged to be habitually disobedient, truant or beyond the control of the parent or guardian (engaging in non-criminal behavior that may be harmful to themselves) (WIC § 601). Pursuant to WIC § 450 and Assembly Bill 12, youth are eligible to receive the benefits of being granted non-minor dependent status and participating in extended foster care. These youth have successfully completed probation and their delinquency case has been terminated. The youth are no longer on probation, are no longer subject to conditions of probation, and cannot be found in violation of probation along with the threat of incarceration.

There are five types of specialized Delinquency Courts in operation: The Juvenile Mental Health Court, the Juvenile Drug Courts, the 241.1 Crossover Court, the Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ) Re-entry



Court, and the Succeeding Through Achievement and Resilience (STAR) Court. The Juvenile Mental Health Court, located at Eastlake Juvenile Court, treats juvenile offenders who suffer from diagnosed mental disorders and mental disabilities. The Juvenile Drug Courts, located at the Eastlake, Inglewood, and Sylmar Juvenile Courts, provide voluntary comprehensive treatment programs for children who have committed drug or alcohol-related offenses or demonstrated delinquent behavior and have had a history of drug use. The DJJ Reentry Court located at Eastlake Juvenile Court, transitions youth returning home after completing their program at the Division of Juvenile Justice (formerly "California Youth Authority"). The STAR Court program identifies and supports victims of sex trafficking who are under-age and refers them to specialized help.

Dependency proceedings exist to protect children who have been abused, neglected or abandoned, or who are at substantial risk of abuse or neglect (WIC § 202, 300.2).

California's Fostering Connections to Success Act, also known as Assembly Bill 12, lays the foundation for a fundamental shift in how we approach and work with young adults, called non-minor dependents, in foster care. Enacted in September 2010, AB 12 permits the extension of foster care in certain circumstances until age 21, allowing youth to receive continued case management services focusing on self-sufficiency and independence, educational support, job skills training and career development, while at the same time still having an attorney and court supervision. Another important feature of extended foster care is the ability for this population to re-open their foster care case through the reentry process should they need additional support, courtroom supervision and assistance with housing and/or education.

There are 28 Dependency Courts in the Los Angeles Court system. Twenty-five are located in the Edmund D. Edelman Children's Court in Monterey Park, and three are in the Alfred J. McCourtney Juvenile Justice Center in Lancaster and serve families and children residing in the Antelope Valley. Two of the courtrooms at the Edelman Children's Court has been designated for private and agency adoptions. One of the courtrooms hears matters that fall within the Indian Child Welfare Act (25 U.S.C. § 1901 et. seq., CRC 439). Another courtroom hears matters involving the hearing-impaired. There is one Dependency Courtroom dedicated to utilizing the

Drug Court Parent Protocol, and all Dependency Courts are following the Drug Court Dependency Youth Protocol. The Court opened specialized courtrooms for AB 12, and Commercially Sexually Exploited Children (CSEC) in 2016.

In January 2016, the Juvenile Court in partnership with County Counsel, Children's Law Center (CLC), and the Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) initiated a dedicated courtroom to serve Commercially Sexually Exploited Children (CSEC) in the dependency system. The establishment of the dedicated courtroom, named the Dedication to Restoration through Empowerment, Advocacy, and Mentoring (DREAM) Court, was based on lessons learned from the STAR Court in the delinquency system. By having a dedicated Judicial Officer, and CSEC trained and informed County Counsel, CLC attorney, and DCFS staff, DREAM Court will allow for increased expertise, consistency in practice, and better outcomes for the CSEC population. The DREAM Court officially opened in February 2016.

#### THE COURT PROCESS

The fundamental goal of the Juvenile Dependency system is to assure the safety and protection of the child while acting in the child's best interest, which is achieved when a child is protected from abuse, feels secure and nurtured within a stable and permanent home.

To act in the best interest of the child, the Court must safeguard the parents' fundamental right to raise their child and the child's right to remain a part of the family of origin by preserving the family as long as the child's safety can be assured. All parties, including children, who appear in the Dependency Court are entitled to be represented by counsel. The Court will appoint legal counsel for a parent unless the parent has retained private counsel. Legal counsel for children are appointed by the Court; they are statutorily mandated to inform the Court of the child's wishes and act in the best interest of the child by informing the Court of any conflict between what the child seeks and what may be in the child's best interest. Children are appointed legal counsel whether or not they appear in court (WIC § 317). DCFS is represented by County Counsel.

Preservation of the family can be facilitated through family maintenance and family reunification services. Family Maintenance services are provided to a parent who retains custody of the child. Family Reunification services are provided to a parent



whose child has been removed from his/her care and custody by the Court and placed outside their home. Prior to filing a petition in the Court, DCFS must make a reasonable effort to provide services that might eliminate the need for the intervention of the Court or removal of the child.

Before a parent can be required to participate in these services, the Court must find that facts have been presented which prove the assertion of parental abuse, neglect, or the risk of abuse or neglect as stated in the petition filed by DCFS.

Findings of abuse or neglect are made at the Jurisdiction and/or Disposition hearing and may result in the Court declaring the child a dependent and the parents and child subject to the jurisdiction of the Court. Family Maintenance and Reunification services for the family are delineated in the disposition case plan, which is tailored by the Court to the requirements of each family and provided to them under the auspices of DCFS.

Family Reunification services facilitate the safe return of the child to the family and may include drug and alcohol rehabilitation; the development of parenting skills; therapeutic intervention to address mental health issues; education and the development of social skills; and in-home modeling to develop homemaking and/or budgeting skills. The disposition case plan must delineate all the services deemed reasonable and necessary to assure a child's safe return to his/her family. When a family fully and successfully participates in Reunification services that have been appropriately tailored, the family unit is preserved, and the child remains with the birth family.

Stability and permanence are also assured when a child is able to safely remain within the family unit without placement in foster care while parents receive family maintenance services from DCFS under the supervision of the Court. If the Court has ordered that the child may reside with a parent, the case will be reviewed every six months until such time the Court determines that the conditions which brought the child within the Court's jurisdiction no longer exist. At this time, the Court may terminate jurisdiction (WIC § 364).

Preserving the family unit through Family Maintenance and Reunification services is one aspect of what is called Permanency Planning. This process also involves the identification and implementation of a plan for the child when he/she

cannot be safely returned to a parent or guardian (WIC § 366.26). Concurrent Planning occurs when the Court orders reunification services to be provided simultaneously with planning for permanency outside of the parents' home. In the Dependency system, Concurrent Planning begins the moment a child has been removed from the parents' care.

Children require stability, a sense of security, and belonging. To assure that concurrent planning occurs in a manner that will provide stability for the child, periodic reviews of each case are set by the Court. When a child is removed from the care of a parent and suitably placed in foster care under the custody of DCFS, the Court will order six months of reunification services for children under the age of three, including sibling groups with a child under that age. For all other children, the reunification period is 12 months. If the Court finds compliance with the case plan at each and every six-month Judicial Review hearing, the Court may continue services to a date 18 months from the date of removal. To extend Reunification services to the 12- or 18- month date, the Court, based upon its evaluation of the history of the case, must find a substantial likelihood of the child's return to the parent or guardian on or before the permanency planning hearing at the 18-month date (WIC § 366.21, et. seq.).

If Reunification services are terminated without the return of the child to the parent or guardian, the Court must establish a Permanent Plan for the child. Termination of Reunification services without the return of the child to the parent is tantamount to finding the parent to be unfit. A parent who has failed to reunify with a child may be prevented from parenting later-born children if the Court sustains petitions involving the later-born children. The Court may deny Reunification services to the parent and set a Permanency Planning Hearing to consider the most appropriate plan for the child. The Code provides circumstances under which the Court may in its discretion order no reunification services for a parent (WIC § 361.5). Examples are when a parent has inflicted serious physical abuse upon a child; has a period of incarceration that exceeds the time period set for reunification; has inflicted sexual abuse upon a child; etc.

If it is consistent with the best interest of the child, concurrent planning will take place during the reunification period. In the event the parents do not reunify with the child, the Court and DCFS are prepared to secure a stable and permanent home under one of three permanent plans set out in the

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code (WIC § 366.26):

- 1. The adoption of the child following a hearing where Dependency Court has terminated parental rights. Adoption is the preferred plan as it provides the most stability and permanence for the child.
- 2. The appointment of a Legal Guardian for the child. Legal Guardians have the same responsibilities as a parent to care for and supervise a child. However, legal guardianship provides less permanence, as a quardianship may be terminated by Court order or by operation of law when the child reaches the age of 18.
- 3. The Planned Permanent Living Arrangement (formerly Long-Term Foster Care) is the least stable plan for the child because the child has not been provided a home environment in which the individual(s) will commit to parent him or her into adulthood while providing the legal relationship of parent and child.

When a Permanent Plan is implemented, the Court reviews it every six months until the child is adopted. guardianship is granted, the child reaches age 18, or enters extended foster care. Court jurisdiction for children under a Planned Permanent Living Arrangement cannot be terminated until the child reaches age 18. Jurisdiction may terminate for children under a plan of legal guardianship or when a child's adoption has been finalized.

#### SUBSEQUENT AND SUPPLEMENTAL PETITIONS

Subsequent and supplemental petitions may be filed within existing cases by DCFS, the parents, and persons who are not a party to the original action. These petitions are filed to protect and/or assert the rights of parties, including the rights and interests of the child. Due Process issues exist whenever a petition is filed in the Dependency Court. The Court will appoint counsel (if appropriate), to set these matters for contested hearings, and, if the parents are receiving reunification services, resolve the new petitions while maintaining compliance within the statutory timelines.

Subsequent Petitions may be filed by DCFS any time after the original petition has been adjudicated; they allege new facts or circumstances other than those under which the original petition was sustained (WIC § 342). A Subsequent Petition is subject to all of the procedures and hearings required for the original petition.

Supplemental Petitions may be filed by DCFS to change or modify a prior court order placing a child in the care of a parent, guardian, relative or friend, if DCFS believes there are sufficient facts to show that the child will be better served by placement in a foster home, group home or in a more restrictive institution (WIC § 387). A Supplemental Petition is subject to all of the procedural requirements for the original petition.

Petitions for Modification (Pre- and PostDisposition) may be filed to change or set aside any order made by the court (WIC § 385). Any person subject to the jurisdiction of the Court may make a motion pursuant to WIC § 385 at any time. Orders may be modified as the Court deems proper, subject to notice to the attorney of record.

Petitions for Modification (Post- Disposition) may be filed by a parent or any person having an interest in a child who is a dependent child, including the child himself or herself. These petitions allege either a change of circumstances or new evidence that could require the Court to modify previous orders or issue new orders in the best interest of the child. (WIC § 388).

#### CASELOAD OVERVIEW

The data collected at this time does not fully reflect the workload of the Dependency Courts. In addition to the statutorily mandated hearings (Detention/ Arraignment Hearing; Jurisdictional Hearing; Disposition Hearing; 6-, 12- and 18-month review hearings; Selection and Implementation Hearing), the Court, acting in the best interest of the child, must often schedule hearings to receive progress reports if it is determined that court-ordered services may be lacking. Interim hearings may be scheduled to handle matters that have not been or cannot be resolved without court intervention. Cases that are transferred from other counties must be immediately set on the Court's calendar. All of the courts hear adoption hearings, so that permanency occurs without delay.

#### **ANALYSIS**

The number of WIC § 602 (delinquency) petitions filed has continued to decrease significantly since 2013. In 2020, there were 3,061 WIC § 602 (delinquency) petitions filed compared with 4,869 WIC § 602 petitions filed in 2019. (Figure 1) The decrease in the number of petitions was due to a general decrease in crime possibly due to the COVID-19 Pandemic, as well as more successful efforts at diverting low- risk





offenders from the juvenile justice system.

In 2020, new, subsequent, and supplemental petitions were filed involving 19,132 children; of these, 14,667 children were before the Court with new WIC § 300 (dependency) petitions. Supplemental and/or subsequent petitions accounted for 5,549 of these petitions. New filings were down by 4,779 compared with 2019 filings.

From 2015 through 2019, there was an upward trend in the number of WIC § 300 petitions filed. This is the first year since 2014 that the filings were in the fourteen thousands.

#### **EXITING THE DEPENDENCY COURT SYSTEM**

The data indicates in 2020, 14,667 children were the subject of new Dependency court petitions, and 14,011 children had their cases dismissed or jurisdiction terminated. Unfortunately, in 2020, the number of children exiting the system decreased considerably compared to the number of children exiting the system in 2019. (Figure 3)

The data indicates that of the children who had their cases terminated in 2020, 669 children were adopted out of the system, compared to 1,922 children in 2019. (Figure 4) Again, this reduction of over twelve hundred adoptions may have been contributed to the COVID-19 Pandemic.

#### **SELECTED FINDINGS**

- The number of WIC § 602 (delinquency) petitions filed have continually, significantly decreased since 2013.
- The number of dependency filings has fluctuated since 2013.
- In 2020, 14,667 children entered the Dependency system as a result of new petitions being filed, and 14,011 children exited the system.
- In 2020, 669 children were adopted out of the dependency system, compared to 1,922 children in 2019.
- In 2020, 43,408 hearings were held via WebEx technology.

State of Child Abuse



#### **GLOSSARY**

Adjudication: A hearing to determine if the allegations of a petition are true.

**Detention Hearing**: The initial hearing which must be held within 72 hours after the child is removed from the parents. If the parents are present, they may be arraigned.

**Disposition**: The hearing in which the Court assumes jurisdiction of the child. The Court will order Family Maintenance or Family Reunification services. The Court may also calendar a Permanency Planning Hearing. Permanency Planning Hearing (PPH): A post-disposition hearing to determine the permanent plan of the child. This hearing may be held at the 6-, 12- or 18-month date.

**Prima Facie Showing**: A minimum standard of proof asserting that the facts, if true, are indicative of abuse or neglect.

**Review of Permanent Plan**: A hearing subsequent to the Permanency Planning Hearing (PPH) to review orders made at the PPH and monitor the status of the case.

**Selection and Implementation Hearing**: Apermanency planning hearing pursuant to WIC § 366.26 to determine whether adoption, legal guardianship or a planned permanent living arrangement is the appropriate plan for the child.

**WIC § 300 Petition**: The initial petition filed by the Department of Children and Family Services that subjects a child to Dependency Court supervision. If sustained, the child may be adjudged a Dependent of the Court under subdivisions (a) through (j).

**WIC § 342 Petition**: A subsequent petition filed after the WIC 300 petition has been adjudicated and while jurisdiction is still open, alleging new facts or circumstances.

**WIC § 366.26 Petition**: For children who are adjudged dependent children of the Juvenile Court pursuant to subdivision (d) of Section 360, this section specifies the exclusive procedures for permanently terminating parental rights with regard to, or establishing legal guardianship of, the child while the child is a dependent child of the juvenile court.

WIC § 388 Petition: A petition filed by any party to change, modify, or set aside a previous court order.

**WIC § 450 Petition**: A minor or non-minor who satisfies all criteria within the code section is within the transition jurisdiction of the juvenile court.

**WIC § 601 Petition**: Any person under 18 years of age who persistently or habitually refuses to obey the reasonable and proper orders or directions of his or her parents, guardian, or custodian, or who is beyond the control of that person, or who is under the age of 18 years when he or she violated any ordinance of any city or county of this state establishing a curfew based solely on age is within the jurisdiction of the juvenile court which may adjudge the minor to be a ward of the court.

**WIC § 602 Petition**: Except as provided in Section 707, any person who is under 18 years of age when he or she violates any law of this state or of the United States or any ordinance of any city or county of this state defining crime other than an ordinance establishing a curfew based solely on age, is within the jurisdiction of the juvenile court, which may adjudge such person to be a ward of the court.





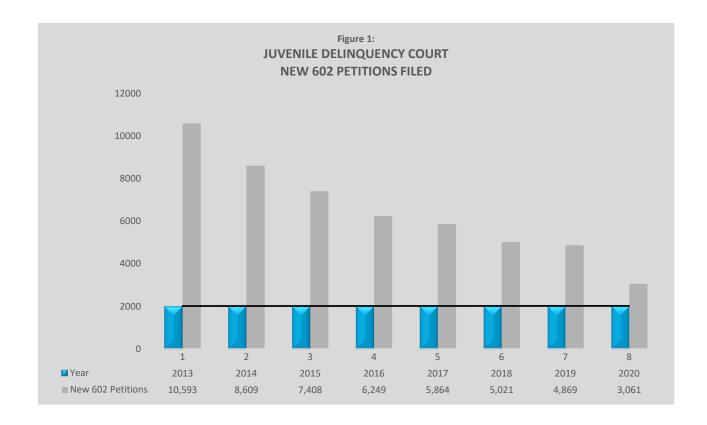
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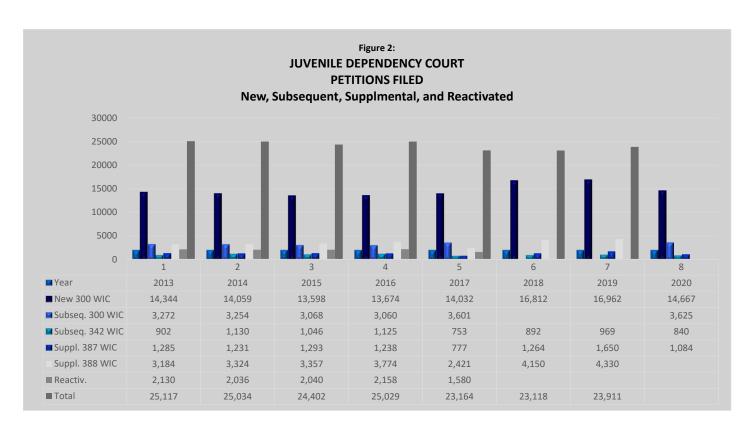






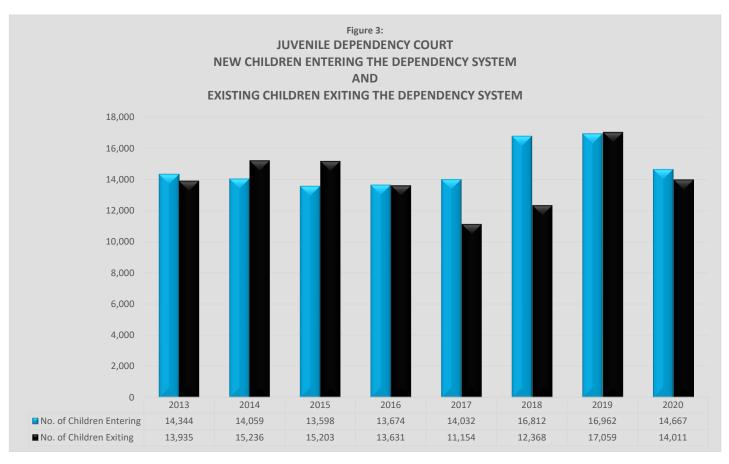


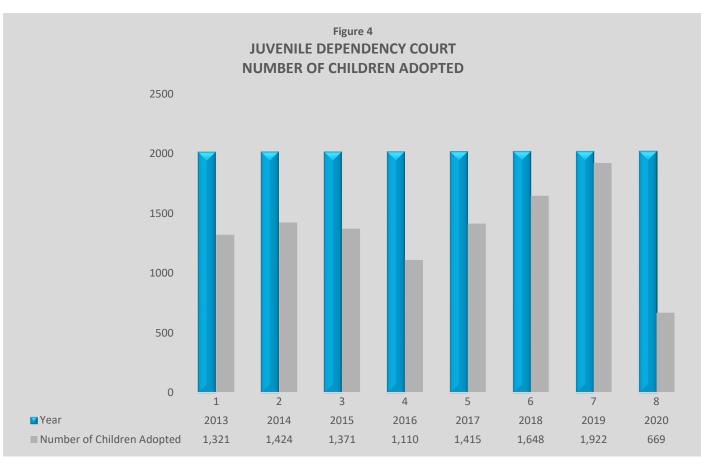


















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# COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES FIRE DEPARTMENT 2021 PEDIATRIC STATISTICS

#### INTRODUCTION

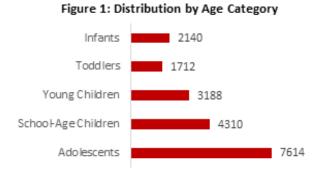
The County of Los Angeles Fire Department serves 60 District Cities and all unincorporated areas of Los Angeles County, spanning over 2,300 square miles, and protecting more than four million residents. The Department responds to over 400,000 requests for service annually. These responses include fires, natural disasters, emergency medical services (EMS), mutual aid, and more. EMS incidents account for approximately 80 percent of the Department's total responses.

A majority of the care provided by emergency personnel occurs within the same environment where the illness or injury occurred. This presents a unique insight into the nature of the patient's condition, including possible cases of child maltreatment that may not be apparent to other providers in the continuum of care. Given the potential nature of these contacts, all emergency responders are mandated reporters and have been trained to identify and report suspected child abuse and neglect.

The County of Los Angeles Fire Department is proud to partner with the Inter-Agency Council on Child Abuse and Neglect (ICAN) to improve collaboration between agencies for the safety and well-being of children throughout the county.

#### PEDIATRIC PATIENT POPULATION

In 2021, the Department responded to 366,420 EMS calls and provided emergency medical care to 310,724 patients; 18,964 (6%) of these were pediatric patients 17 years of age and younger. Infants (0-11 months), toddlers (12-23 months), and young children (2-5 years) combined, account for 37% of all pediatric patients. School-age children (6-12 years) and adolescents (13-17) account for 23% and 40% respectively (see Figure 1).





Approximately 63% of all pediatric patient contacts receive transport to a 9-1-1 receiving center:

- 5,948 (49%) were transported with advanced life support (ALS) care.
- 5,897 (49%) were transported with basic life support (BLS) care.
- 192 (2%) were transported by helicopter with ALS care.

#### **Service Planning Areas (SPA)**

The Department provides services across all Los Angeles County SPAs and within the city of La Habra (Orange County). East County (SPA 7) and adjacent San Gabriel Valley (SPA 3) continue to have the highest volumes of pediatric patient contacts. See Figure 2 for a breakdown of the pediatric patient volume by SPA and see Figure 7 for the corresponding map of the Los Angeles County SPAs.

Figure 2				
PEDIATRIC F	PATIENT	INCIDEN	TS BY	SPA

SPA	CITY/COMMUNITY	COUNT	
SPA 1	Antelope Valley	3,370	
SPA 2	San Fernando	1,605	
SPA 3	San Gabriel	4,298	
SPA 4	Metro	64	
SPA 5	West	442	
SPA 6	South	1,509	
SPA 7	East	4,735	
SPA 8	South Bay	2,941	

#### **HEALTH & SAFETY**

#### Infants, Toddlers, & Young Children

Children five and under typically have different presenting conditions than school-age children and adolescents. The most common conditions for these age groups in 2021 were:

- Traumatic / Injury (25%)
- Seizure (15%)
- Respiratory Distress (14%)
- Cold / Flu (9%)

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Gastrointestinal Issues (5%)

#### School-Age Children

With school-age children trauma / injury, seizure, and behavioral disorder remain the top three reasons for 9-1-1 utilization. The top five conditions among this age group in 2019 were:

- Trauma / Injury (40%)
- Seizure (9%)
- Behavioral Disorder (8%)
- Syncope / Dizzy / Weak (7%)
- Respiratory Distress (5%)

#### **Adolescents**

Within the adolescent patient population, the most common conditions and complaints are:

- Trauma / Injury (32%)
- Behavioral Disorder (17%)
- Overdose / Poisoning / Ingestion (9%)
- Syncope / Dizzy / Weak (9%)
- Seizure (7%)

In 2021, there was a total of 841 cases of adolescent intoxication and/or poisoning, a 23% increase when compared to the previous year. Of these cases, 22% (186) involved alcohol intoxication, while 78% (655) involved the use of recreational drugs, prescription drugs, and/or other household chemicals or poisons. The following is a breakdown of reasons for drug/poison use:

- Recreational Use (57%)
- Suicide Attempt (27%)
- Accidental or Unknown (16%)

The top five substances documented as being used by adolescents in 2021 are listed below within their classifications:

- Cannabis (23%)
- Alcohol (22%)
- Over-the-Counter Medications (20%)
- Benzodiazepines & Opiates (15%)
- Psychiatric Medications (8%)

Total documented incidents of adolescent suicide attempts in 2021 was 345. That is an increase of 48% from 2020. There was a total of 224 documented incidents of adolescent suicide attempts by overdose and poisoning, an increase of 27% when compared to the previous year. Of these incidents, 81% (182) of attempts were made by females, 17% (38) by males and 2% (four) were nonbinary.



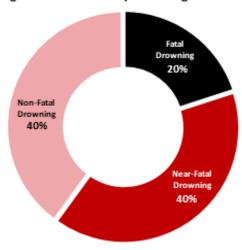
#### Vehicle Safety

Traffic collisions were responsible for 2,493 pediatric patient contacts last year; 2,239 (90%) of these children had a reported injury. Two hundred fifty-seven (11%) had a significant injury and required ALS transport to a pediatric trauma center.

#### Water Safety

In 2021, there were 40 incidents of submersion or drowning; 29 (73%) occurred in residential pools.

Figure 3: Submersion / Drowning Events \*

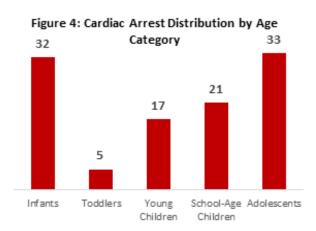


\*Conventional drowning categorization cannot be used due to lack of outcome information.

Twenty-four (60%) of these incidents resulted in severe respiratory compromise or cardiac arrest, eight (20%) of which were fatal (See Figure 3). Sixteen of these cases received bystander intervention in the form of rescue breaths or cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR). Of the 16 cases that received bystander intervention, 11 experienced an improvement in breathing and mental status by the time of EMS arrival.

#### Pediatric Cardiac Arrests

Pediatric cardiac arrests continue to be the most difficult cases for medical professionals across the spectrum of care. EMS personnel are tasked with comforting distraught family members while simultaneously providing high quality care. Evidence shows that caring for non-traumatic cardiac arrests on scene, improves a patient's chances for a positive outcome. Delaying transport until a child regains pulses creates another layer of complexity as parents wonder why their child is not being taken to a hospital.



In 2021, the Department joined the national Cardiac Arrest Registry to Enhance Survival (CARES). Participation in CARES allows the Department to acquire outcome information for all medical cardiac arrests and compare its data against national benchmarks, as well as other participating departments across the nation. Figure 5 includes 2021 information on causes and survivals of pediatric cardiac arrest.

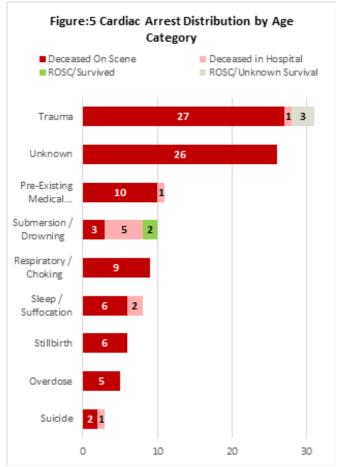
Last year, the Department provided care for a total of 109 children who were victims of cardiac arrest. Infants and Adolescents accounted for 29% and 30% of pediatric deaths, respectively (See Figure 4). Traumatic injuries accounted for 29%. Firearm events accounted for six cases and motor vehicle accidents accounted for 11. This was followed by unknown etiologies at 24%. Suicide attempts accounted for three events in 2021. This number is significantly lower from 13 which was reported in 2020. Drug abuse was also significantly lower with five cases reported in 2021 versus 15 reported in 2020.





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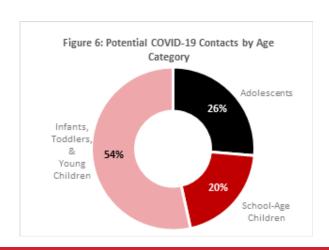


#### **COVID-19 PANDEMIC**

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The year 2021, began during the first peak of the COVID-19 pandemic. On January 1, 2021, there were 19,980 new cases of COVID-19 reported in Los Angeles County. During this time, the first round of vaccines was offered and administered to healthcare workers and first responders. Potential COVID-19 patients continued to be identified based on the presence of fever, respiratory symptoms, and/or gastrointestinal symptoms. More than half of the potential pediatric COVID-19 patients were age five and under (Figure 6). By the end of the year, children five years of age and older were eligible to receive the COVID-19 vaccine.



#### **ABUSE & NEGLECT**

Last year, Department paramedics treated 157 victims of suspected abuse or neglect. Of these patients, 89 were victims of suspected physical abuse, 44 were victims of suspected neglect, and 15 were victims of suspected sexual abuse. There were nine pediatric homicides and one abandoned newborn.

Physical assault was the most common type of abuse reported in school-age children and adolescents, while reports of neglect were more common in infants, toddlers, and young children. The nine pediatric homicides are classified under physical abuse (See Figure 7).

Neglect Sexual Abuse Physical Abuse

Infants 8 6

Toddlers 2 6

Young Children 20 17

School-Age Children 5 33

Adolescents 4 11 36

Figure 7: Abuse & Neglect by Age Category

#### **GLOSSARY**

Advanced Life Support (ALS): Invasive lifesaving procedures that expand upon basic life support to include advanced airway management, intravenous infusions of medications, cardiac monitoring and defibrillation, electrocardiogram interpretation and other procedures conventionally used at the hospital level. ALS is provided by physicians, paramedics or by other specially trained professionals.

Basic Life Support (BLS): Non-invasive lifesaving procedures including cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR), use of an automated external defibrillator, bleeding control, splinting broken bones, artificial ventilation, basic airway management and administration of oral medications. BLS is usually provided by emergency medical technicians (EMS) or other

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similarly trained professionals.

Cardiac Arrest: A sudden, sometimes temporary, cessation of function of the heart.

Emergency Medical Services (EMS): The delivery of out-of-hospital emergency medical care and/or transport to definitive care for sick and injured patients.

**Etiology**: The cause or reason of a disease or condition.

**Mutual Aid**: A contractual agreement to enter into another agency's jurisdiction and provide aid when that agency's capacity to provide those services is surpassed.

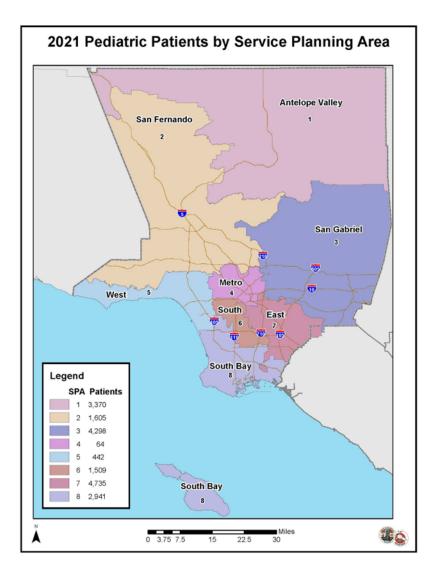
Pediatric Patient: For Los Angeles County EMS providers, this is defined as patients who are 14 years of age and younger.

**Pediatric Trauma Center**: A hospital specially equipped and staffed to provide care to critically injured pediatric patients.

**Provider Impression**: The provider's explanation of the nature of a patient's condition; what the provider believes is wrong with the patient.

**Respiratory Arrest**: The cessation of breathing due to failure of the lungs to function effectively.

**Return of Spontaneous Circulation (ROSC)**: The reappearance of effective cardiac activity after a period of cardiac arrest.











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## OFFICE OF THE ALTERNATE PUBLIC DEFENDER

The Office of the Alternate Public Defender (APD) was created by the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors (BOS) in 1993 to provide high quality and caring legal representation to indigent persons charged with crimes in Los Angeles County criminal courts where the Public Defender declared a conflict of interest.

#### REPRESENTATION OF INDIGENT ADULTS

The APD provides high level and cost-effective representation in all Los Angeles County criminal courts.

The APD represents indigent clients charged with misdemeanor, felony, and mental health court cases. The APD also handles pre-judgment writs and appeals and limited post-conviction matters.

The APD currently employs 301 full time employees including attorneys, paralegals, investigators, psychiatric social workers, IT workers and secretarial staff.

#### **Adult Specialty Courts**

The APD participates in a wide variety of specialty courts including: The Community Collaborative Courts, Woman's Re-Entry Court, Veterans Court, Co-Occurring Disorders Court, Sentenced Offender Drug Court (SODC), Mental Health Court, Department of Health Services (DHS) and Office of Diversion and Re-entry (ODR) Pre- Plea Mental Health Diversion Court, ODR Post-Plea Diversion Courts, ODR Maternal Diversion Court, LGBTQ-Plus Court, MacArthur AB1810 Diversion Pilot, Bail Project, Bail Reform Pilot Project, Homeless Courts, and Transitional Aged Youth Diversion Court.

#### Justice Partner Collaborations

The APD also participates in a variety of inter-agency collaborations and BOS sponsored committees including: Bail Reform, ODR Steering Committee, Department 95 Stakeholder Meetings, Diversion Outreach and Opportunities for Recovery (LADOOR), Felony Incompetent to Stand Trial Program (FIST), Misdemeanor Incompetent to Stand Trial Program (MIST), Mental Health Advisory Meeting, Mental Health Court Think Tank, Homeless Initiative, Immigration Deferred Action Task Force, Immigration Protection and Advancement Taskforce (IPAA), County Counsel Immigration Task, Force, Office of Immigrant Affairs Committee, and Law Enforcement Assisted Diversion (LEAD), Medication for Addiction Treatment Work Group (MAT), Public Safety Realignment Team (PSRT), Jail Depopulation Review Council, Men's County Jail Closure Workgroup and Alternatives to Incarceration (ATI), 1170(d) Resentencing Committee, SB823 Human Trafficking Workgroup, Rapid Diversion Program, Youth Justice Commission, Anti-Racism, Diversity, and Inclusion Initiative, Guiding Re-Entry of Women (GROW) and consults with the CEO's Legislative Affairs and Intergovernmental Relations

#### Office of the Alternate Public Defender

Office on key legislation affecting the criminal justice system.

#### REPRESENTATION OF CHILDREN IN THE JUVENILE JUSTICE SYSTEM

The Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors (BOS) ordered that the APD begin representing children in all Los Angeles Delinquency Courts by November 1, 2016.

The APD currently staffs every delinquency court in Los Angeles county and represents children in pre- and post-dispositional matters including WIC 601, 602 and WIC 777-779 petitions, AB 12/212 matters, transfer cases, educational law matters, school disciplinary hearings, individualized education plans (IEPS), competency proceedings and Regional Center referrals.

#### Juvenile Specialty Courts

The APD staffs and participates in all delinquency court specialty programs including: 241.1 pilot project, Juvenile Mental Health Court, Department of Juvenile Justice Return Court (DJJ), Juvenile Drug Courts, and Succeeding Through Achievement and Resilience Court (STAR).

#### Juvenile Justice Partner Collaborations

In addition, the APD participates in a variety of juvenile justice related committees and BOS directed collaborations including: 241.1 Subcommittee, Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children Steering Committee (CSEC), Delinquency Prevention Subcommittee, Juvenile Competency Protocol Committee, ODR Juvenile Subcommittee, Probation Commission Meetings, Probation Governance Study Committee, Probation Workgroup Committee, Juvenile Roundtable Meeting, Psychotropic Medication Workgroup, Victim Witness Testimony Protocol Committee (VWT), VWT Immunity Agreement Subcommittee, Youth Diversion and Development Subcommittee, Youth Diversion and Development Provider Training, Youth Justice Work Group (YJWG), DJJ Transition Team, Dual-Status Multi-Disciplinary Team, and Maintaining the Decreased Population of Incarcerated Youth Work Group, Court Appointed Special Advocates training, Secure County Facilities and Reentry workgroups, California Alliance Youth & Community Justice Data group, Juvenile Arrest Diversion, Decarceration of Girls and Young Women workgroup and the Juvenile Justice Coordinating Council (JJCC). The APD also provides input to state, county, advocacy group and community based partners on pending juvenile legislation.

#### **Best Practices**

APD adheres to the Holistic Representation model as the guiding principle of its delinquency operation. The Holistic Representation model focuses not just on the child's legal case, but on the "root" causes of the child's legal predicament. The Holistic Representation model emphasizes that until "root" causes are identified; the child's long-term well-being cannot be addressed.

#### Interdisciplinary Team Approach

APD's Juvenile Division utilizes psychiatric social workers, educational rights attorneys, immigration attorneys, and paralegals who, along with our trial attorneys, and appellate department, make up the core of our holistic interdisciplinary team. This team works alongside parents, experts, community members, probation, and others, to uncover psychological, social, biological or other factors impacting the child, and allows us to provide independent treatment options and dispositional alternatives to the court. The interdisciplinary team approach reduces incarceration and helps develop long term solutions for our vulnerable client base.

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## OFFICE OF COUNTY COUNSEL

#### VISION

TO BE DEDICATED ADVOCATES AND TRUSTED ADVISORS TO THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS, COUNTY DEPARTMENTS, AND OUR OTHER GOVERNMENTAL CLIENTS, ADVANCING THEIR GOALS THROUGH RESPONSIVE SERVICE WHILE MAINTAINING THE HIGHEST STANDARDS OF ETHICS AND PROFESSIONALISM.

The primary mission of the Dependency Division is the litigation of dependency cases involving allegations of child abuse and neglect. The Office of the County Counsel, through this division, represents the Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS). DCFS is the agency charged with initiating petitions under Welfare and Institutions Code section 300 requesting the juvenile court to intervene in the lives of children who are alleged to be victims of child abuse. On average, DCFS files 60 new petitions each day between Edmund D. Edelman Children's Court in Monterey Park and the Alfred J. McCourtney Juvenile Justice Center in Lancaster. The Dependency Division also supports DCFS in a range of programs and initiatives targeted to improve the dependency system.

The Dependency Division Court Sections staff the dependency trial courts and Intake Detention Control (IDC), which is responsible for preparing and filing dependency petitions. The dependency trial courts will typically handle over 50 scheduled hearings each day, as well as new filings. The trial courts now include specialized courts:

The "18 and Up" court handles cases for foster youth age 18-21 transitioning from the foster care system to adulthood.

The Dedication to Restoration through Empowerment, Advocacy, and Mentoring court (DREAM court), which opened in February 2016, hears most of the cases for children who are commercially sexually exploited in Los Angeles County. The average caseload in DREAM court is about 150 children.

The Indian Child Welfare Act court hears most of the dependency cases involving American Indian children in the county, which is home to the largest urban Native population in the country and includes representatives from most of the federally recognized Indian tribes as well as many Native California tribes who are in the process of becoming federally recognized.

The American Sign Language (ASL) Court works to ensure that deaf parties have meaningful access to the hearings with the help of the interpreters (there are two ASL interpreters, and one Certified Deaf Interpreter in Los Angeles County), special video technology in the courtroom, and any other accommodations that assist the parties (e.g., the use of clear masks for lip readers). Additionally, DCFS has a Deaf/Hard of Hearing Deaf Services Unit that provides a full range of services anytime there is an abuse or neglect case involving either a deaf child or parent. DCFS's Deaf Unit is staffed with representatives from the deaf, partially hearing, and hearing communities.

Los Angeles family drug court is a specialty court created in 2006, which helps parents with substance use disorders reunify with their children. The families in the FDC agree to follow specific protocols, such



as attending court hearings twice a month with social workers, attorneys, drug program facilitators, and other parties, in an effort to address the problem of substance abuse. A specialized social worker prepares a joint report with the treatment provider in advance of the hearing and the parents discuss their progress in recovery.

The Court Sections also handle legislation, confidentiality, and child fatality reviews. On average over 1,000 cases¹ are heard in the trial courts a day with about 60 new cases filed a day.

The Outstation Section staffs 19 DCFS regional offices. Attorneys assigned to this section provide a wide range of advice related to existing and emergent dependency cases and investigations. This section develops and delivers extensive social worker training programs in dependency law and related issues. There are two Section Heads who supervise 19 attorneys, and help coordinate the training activities of the four attorneys who have assignments in the regional offices located in the North County.

The Warrant Desk handles issues relating to emergency response investigations. They review new petitions and assist on removal orders, interview orders, and investigative search warrants each month. The Warrant Desk is primarily staffed by a Section Head and nine lawyers. The Warrant Desk operates twenty-four hours a day, 365 days a year. It is part of the Social Services Division of County Counsel.

The North County Section services three dependency trial courts, and the DCFS regional offices in the San Fernando Valley, Santa Clarita, Palmdale, and Lancaster. The trial courts located in Lancaster are the busiest dependency trial courts both by numbers of hearings and dependent children. There is a Section Head and 13 attorneys assigned to the North County Section.

The Appeals Division handles juvenile dependency appellate matters on behalf of DCFS. This division files responsive briefs and answers to writs filed by parents and children. The Appeals Division also reviews cases for possible appellate action and will file an affirmative writ in circumstances where DCFS believes the court's order may place a child at risk or where an appeal would not be feasible due to time considerations. The Appeals Division seeks publication of appellate

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opinions an¹d works with other counties to seek depublication of unfavorable published opinions. There is a Division Chief and 17 attorneys assigned to this section.

In fiscal year 2020, the Appeals Division filed more than 550 appellate briefs and other pleadings, a decrease in about 100 briefs from the previous year. This decrease can be explained by court operations scaling back during portions of the COVID-19 pandemic. About 14 percent of briefs filed involved the Indian Child Welfare Act.

Among the published decisions from the Los Angeles County Juvenile Court issued by the Court of Appeal in 2020 were:

#### Bom v. Superior Court (2020) 44 Cal.App.5th 1

Note that this opinion concerns the death of minor Gabriel F., whose case received extensive media coverage in Los Angeles and nationwide and is the subject of a 2020 Netflix documentary, The Trials of Gabriel [F.].

After a child died as a result of child neglect and severe head trauma inflicted by his mother and her boyfriend, four social workers with the Los Angeles Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) who provided emergency family maintenance services to the child and his family were charged with felony child abuse and falsifying public records. Petitioners moved to dismiss, and the trial court denied the motions. Petitioners timely filed petitions for a writ of prohibition. The petitions were granted. Petitioners never had the requisite duty to control the abusers and did not have care or custody of the child for purposes of Penal Code section 273a, subdivision (a).

Also, Petitioners were not officers within the meaning of Government Code section 6200. There was, therefore, no probable cause to hold them on charges of violating those laws and the trial court should have granted the motions to dismiss.

## Conservatorship of the Person of O.B. (2020) 9 Cal. 5th 989

The California Supreme Court granted review to clarify how an appellate court is to review the sufficiency of

<sup>1.</sup> For data purposes, one "case" consists of one minor. Prior to the implementation of the Los Angeles Superior Court's digital case summary system Odyssey in 2017, one "case" represented all of a mother's children, including half-siblings.



the evidence associated with a finding made by the trier of fact pursuant to the clear and convincing evidence standard. The Court reversed and remanded. The California Supreme Court held "that an appellate court must account for the clear and convincing standard of proof when addressing a claim that the evidence does not support a finding made under this standard. When reviewing a finding that a fact has been proved by clear and convincing evidence, the question before the appellate court is whether the record as a whole contains substantial evidence from which a reasonable factfinder could have found it highly probable that the fact was true. In conducting its review, the court must view the record in the light most favorable to the prevailing party below and give appropriate deference to how the trier of fact may have evaluated the credibility of witnesses, resolved conflicts in the evidence, and drawn reasonable inferences from the evidence." Because the Court of Appeal below believed the clear and convincing standard of proof disappeared on appeal when it rejected a challenge to the sufficiency of the evidence, the case was remanded for the Court of Appeal to reevaluate the sufficiency of the evidence in light of the California Supreme Court's clarification.

## Dees v. County of San Diego United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit May 27, 2020, Nos. 17-56621, 17-56710

A mother and two children asserted their Fourth and Fourteenth Amendment rights were violated when a social worker sent a letter to the family court incorrectly indicating the social services agency had decided to remove the children from the mother's custody. An additional claim was made under the Fourth Amendment after a social worker interviewed one of the children at school.

The Ninth Circuit panel affirmed the district court's ruling granting summary judgment in favor of the county with regard to plaintiffs' claim the false letter sent to family court violated their Fourteenth Amendment right to familial association. It held that, to establish a Fourteenth Amendment claim based on a child being separated from their parents, plaintiffs had to establish an actual loss of custody. That the agency sent the false letter to the family court by itself did not establish a Fourteenth Amendment violation.

The panel reversed the district court's grant of judgment as a matter of law regarding the Fourth Amendment claim by the mother and the child, L.G., stemming from the school interview, and affirmed the district court's

grant of a new trial on that claim. The panel held that the plaintiffs' allegation resulting from L.G.'s 5-minute interview at school failed to establish a claim given that the mother never actually lost control over L.G.

#### D.P. v. Superior Court (2020) 52 Cal.App 5th 1013

The father, joined by the mother, the children, and the Los Angeles County Department of Children and Family Services argued the juvenile court erred when it relied on a schedule prioritizing dependency cases issued by the Presiding Judge of the Juvenile Court and continued a W&IC § 364 hearing eight months due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Court of Appeal determined that Judicial Council's Emergency rule 6 only allows a continuance of 60 days. Thus, at most, the juvenile court could have continued the W&IC § 364 hearing from May 14, 2020, to July 13, 2020, not the 220 days it did continue the matter pursuant to the Presiding Judge of the Juvenile Court's prioritization schedule. The Court of Appeal explained that local courts cannot issue rules that are inconsistent with statutory time limits. The Court of Appeal additionally held that amendments to local rules must be provided to the Judicial Council with notice posted on the superior court's website and that the Presiding Judge of the Juvenile Court did neither with respect to his prioritization schedule.

The Court of Appeal held there was no indication the juvenile court relied on W&IC§ 352 in continuing the hearing. There was no indication the court considered the best interest of the children, as required by W&IC § 352, in issuing the continuance. Although the Chief Justice authorized superior courts to adopt emergency rules or amendments to address the pandemic, none of the orders made by Presiding Judge of the Superior Court Brazile permitted the continuance in the instant matter. The Court of Appeal stated it was not expressing an opinion as to whether Judge Brazile, in his capacity as presiding judge, may personally issue an order that prioritized dependency hearings in light of prevailing public health conditions and available judicial resources. The Court of Appeal issued a preemptory writ of mandate vacating the order continuing the W&IC § 364 hearing, with directions to hold the hearing within 15 days of remittitur issuance absent a new order continuing the hearing on a proper legal basis.



## Endy v. County of Los Angeles (9th Cir. 2020) 975 F.3d 757

A father brought a civil action pursuant to 42 USC § 1983 alleging the County and child protective agency violated his due process and privacy rights by maintaining unfounded child abuse allegations against him in California's Child Welfare Services Case Management System (CWS/CMS) without providing him notice or a hearing to challenge them. The district court granted summary judgment in favor of the County and agency on grounds the father failed to show that the County's actions had restricted any of his previously recognized rights, that the County had disseminated or misused his information, and that the County's policy caused him a deprivation of his constitutional liberty interest. Appellant appealed.

The Court of Appeal affirmed. A father failed to raise a triable issue of material fact that the record of his unfounded child abuse allegations in the CWS/ CMS caused him reputational harm or that they were used by the County to alter or extinguish his rights to employment, child placement, or child visitation. The County considered only substantiated and inconclusive allegations to be risk factors for child placement, but not unfounded allegations. The County had a strong interest in maintaining all reports of suspected child abuse in the CWS/CMS- even unfounded dispositions—because doing so helped child protective agencies and law enforcement protect children from abuse and neglect. A father failed to show his inclusion in CWS/CMS implicated his liberty interests so as to require procedural due process. A father also failed to show that the County publicly disseminated or misused his information in a manner that would violate his constitutional right to privacy.

#### In re Andrew M. (2020) 46 Cal.App.5th 859

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An incarcerated father challenged a juvenile court's jurisdictional findings. The Court of Appeal reversed. The juvenile court erred by failing to appoint counsel for the incarcerated father despite his numerous requests. The incarcerated father's decision to waive his appearance at the hearings did not constitute a knowing and intelligent waiver of his right to representation. The error was not harmless because the facts supported a finding of presumed fatherhood, a result much more favorable to the father than the juvenile court's finding declaring him a biological father. The fact the father would be incarcerated until his child reached the age of majority did not justify the court failing to appoint an attorney to advocate for his

participation in services and visitation with the child.

#### In re Austin J. (2020) 47 Cal. App. 5th 870

A mother claimed the juvenile court did not have subject matter jurisdiction under the Uniform Child Custody Jurisdiction and Enforcement Act (UCCJEA); and the child welfare agency failed to comply with the inquiry and notice provisions of the Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA).

The Court of Appeal affirmed. The juvenile court had subject matter jurisdiction under the UCCJEA because the children had lived in California with the mother at least six consecutive months before the W&IC § 300 petition was filed and there was no prohibited modification of any custody orders by a court of another state. The inquiry and notice provisions of the ICWA were not triggered by the mother's statements that she might have Indian ancestry because the statements, without more, were not enough to give reason to believe the children were Indian children and imposed no duty to make further inquiry.

#### In re Charlotte C. (2020) 33 Cal. App. 5th 404

The child appealed from two orders (1) the order denying her counsel's request for her relatives' assessment information compiled by the Resource Family Approval Program (RFA) and (2) the order denying counsel's request to present evidence and cross- examine witnesses at the placement hearing. The Court of Appeal affirmed in part and reversed in part. The child's attorney is entitled to receive a copy of the child's case file, including RFA-related information. The child's attorney may obtain confidential RFArelated information that is outside the case file upon the filing of a W&IC § 827 petition with notice provided to the relative whose information is being sought. The juvenile court may order the release of confidential RFA information to the child's attorney upon a finding, by a preponderance of the evidence, that the requested information is substantially relevant to a legitimate need that outweighs the relative's interest in keeping the information confidential. The alleged error in denying the child's request to present evidence or cross- examine witnesses was harmless because the child did not request a new trial or a reversal of the ultimate placement decision.

#### In re C.P. (2020) 47 Cal.App.5th 17

Grandparents seeking placement appealed from denial of a criminal record exemption, asserting the





absolute statutory bar to exemption for a particular conviction was unconstitutional as applied. The Court of Appeal reversed. If the grandparents had a parental relationship with the child, the absolute statutory bar to placement would be unconstitutional as applied to them, and they would be entitled to an individual analysis of their criminal record exemption request.

#### In re D.B. (2020) 48 Cal. App. 5th 613

A father appealed a juvenile court's jurisdictional findings regarding his daughter, and its subsequent order, terminating jurisdiction with a family law order. The Court of Appeal affirmed.

Substantial evidence demonstrated the father's actions had caused his daughter to suffer emotional harm and placed the child at future risk of such harm. Because the child was safe in the mother's custody without court supervision, the court properly terminated jurisdiction with a family law order granting the mother custody and requiring the father to make substantial progress in counseling before starting monitored visits with the child.

#### In re D.S. (2020) 46 Cal. App. 5th 1041

A mother appealed from the jurisdiction and disposition findings and orders, claiming the juvenile court failed to comply with the further inquiry requirements of the ICWA. The Court of Appeal affirmed. The Court found that the record contained substantial evidence that the child welfare agency conducted a proper and adequate further inquiry into the child's Indian status, noting the agency was not required to "cast about" for information or pursue unproductive investigative leads.

#### In re E.E. (2020) 49 Cal.App.5th 195

The mother appealed from a juvenile dependency court's jurisdictional findings as they related to the three older siblings and the dispositional order removing all of the children from the children's father.

The Court of Appeal affirmed. The evidence supported the findings as to the mother's three older children because it showed that she tested positive for amphetamine at a prenatal visit and that her baby tested positive at birth. The juvenile court could reasonably disbelieve her offer of proof that she was no longer using because she implausibly denied the extent of her drug use, was evasive, and resisted monitoring and services. A conclusion that the children could not safely be returned to the father with mother out of the home was supported by evidence that he

denied mother had a drug problem, demanded that the social worker leave his family alone, attempted to give the children to a family friend during the investigation, tested positive for marijuana, missed a number of tests, made no progress in services, and moved in with a relative with a significant criminal history.

#### In re I.B. (2020) 53 Cal. App. 5th 347

A juvenile court granted a mother's Welf. & Inst. Code § 388 petition and returned her three-year-old son to her care but left the child's five-year-old brother with the foster parents. The three-year-old appealed, contending it was error to separate the siblings. The three-year-old and the Social Services Agency also argued the juvenile court erred because the mother did not demonstrate a change in circumstances or that changing the three-year-old's custody was in his best interests. The Social Services Agency additionally argued the juvenile court applied the wrong legal standard when granting the § 388 petition. The mother and father cross-appealed, contending the court's ruling should not be disturbed.

The Court of Appeal affirmed. The juvenile court did not abuse its discretion in granting the mother's § 388 petition. The case had begun due to unsanitary conditions in the home and domestic violence between the mother and father that the children witnessed, and the mother demonstrated changed circumstances by (1) remedying the unsanitary conditions in the home; and (2) leaving the abusive relationship with the father and voluntarily continuing to participate in domestic violence therapy (there is extensive discussion regarding victims of domestic violence).

The juvenile court did not err in returning the three-yearold to the mother's custody because, although the child was bonded to both the mother and the foster parents, the mother was the child's primary caregiver for the first seven months of his life, was loving and fulfilled a parental role during monitored visitation, and remained a constant and positive presence in the child's life. It was not error to leave the five-year-old sibling with the foster parents because, despite the three-year-old's and the Social Services Agency's arguments that there was a need to preserve the sibling bond, the threeyear-old had suffered continual physical abuse by the five-year-old, was treated as a "human punching bag," and was terrified of the five- year-old. This was not a healthy situation for the three-year-old, who needed a stable environment.

As to the Social Service Agency's contention that



the juvenile court used the wrong legal standard in evaluating the three-year-old's best interest, the court's reference to § 366.21(f), which should be used at the 12- month review hearing and places the burden of establishing detriment on the Social Services Agency, was a harmless misstatement because the court's lengthy discussion on the record showed it applied the correct test and earnestly evaluated all relevant factors in deciding which placement would provide the three-year-old with a permanent and stable home.

#### In re J.A. (2020) 47 Cal. App. 5th 1036

A mother appealed from a juvenile court's jurisdictional findings and dispositional orders regarding her newborn and toddler. The Court of Appeal reversed. The evidence was insufficient to establish a mother, who admitted to ingesting marijuana while pregnant and gave birth to an infant born positive for cannabinoids, abused marijuana or that any such substance abuse placed the children at risk of serious harm.

#### In re J.M. (2020) 44 Cal.App.5th 707

The child challenged the juvenile court's appointment of his maternal grandmother as his legal guardian. The Court of Appeal Affirmed. The juvenile court's determination that the child's interests would be best served through legal guardianship with his maternal grandmother was not an abuse of discretion. The Court of Appeal interpreted W&IC §

366.26 as allowing the juvenile court to order a legal guardianship even though, due to the child's extraordinary physical needs, the child was unlikely to be adopted and unable to reside in the legal guardian's home.

#### In re J.M., Jr. (2020) 50 Cal. App. 5th 833

In two separate appeals, appellant-mother challenged three juvenile court orders regarding her son. In her first appeal (case No. B298473), the mother challenged the juvenile court's denial of a January 19, 2019, Welfare and Institutions Code section 388 petition for modification—joined by the child—through which the mother sought to have her son placed with her or, in the alternative, further reunification services. In her second appeal, the mother challenged the juvenile court's order terminating parental rights.

The Court of Appeal reversed. Following termination of her reunification services, the mother addressed the domestic violence issues that comprised the entire basis for the sustained dependency petition

regarding the child. Mother also addressed various additional concerns the juvenile court and the child welfare agency raised throughout the proceedings. Specifically, the juvenile court required efforts from mother wholly unrelated to domestic violence, such as improving her living conditions, completing drug testing, and receiving mental health services. Mother complied. Thus, since termination of her reunification services, the mother not only successfully completed all programs to address domestic violence issues, but did everything else the juvenile court asked of her. Additionally, the reviewing court found that mother ameliorated all concerns leading to dependency court jurisdiction constitutes a substantial change in circumstances. Moreover, she presented evidence that, in light of this change in circumstances and the record as a whole, it was in the child's best interests to be placed with her. Namely, the mother provided evidence-including testimony of a social workerthat she was ready, willing, and able to care for her son, that they had a growing bond, and that she posed no danger to him. The juvenile court's primary reason for denying the petition was a concern that the mother had not provided sufficient evidence to address the court's concern that she was not capable of caring for the child's special needs, such as evidence reflecting she had been "trained" on how to do so. That concern, however, was unsupported by the record and was based on unwarranted speculation. The record contained no evidence suggesting the mother could not appropriately care for her child. Rather, it reflected only that the child's long-term foster caregivers had more experience with doing so-and had done so without first receiving any "training." Accordingly, the reviewing court held that the juvenile court abused its discretion in not granting the mother's section 388 petition and instructed the juvenile court to enter a new order granting her petition and immediately placing the child with mother.

The disposition of the mother's first appeal necessarily required reversal of the order terminating parental rights that was the subject of the mother's second appeal (case No. B301428).

#### In re J.P. (2020) 55 Cal. App. 5th 229

A mother appealed from the juvenile court's order granting her former boyfriend presumed parent status with regard to her son. Mother argued the court did not have the authority under Welf. & Inst. Code § 385 to reconsider and modify its prior order in which it found that the former boyfriend was not the child's presumed parent. Mother argued that Fam. Code § 7636, as well

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as principles of res judicata and collateral estoppel, precluded such reconsideration.

The appellate court affirmed the juvenile court's modification of its paternity finding and ruled that pursuant to Fam. Code § 7642, the juvenile court was authorized to reconsider its prior ruling on paternity and determine, based on the evidence presented at a contested hearing, that its prior order denying presumed parent status to mother's former boyfriend should be modified. The appellate court found that in dependency proceedings, the juvenile court must utilize the Uniform Parentage Act (UPA) (Fam. Code, § 7600 et seg.) with respect to parentage determinations. The appellate court ruled Fam. Code § 7642, which is part of the UPA and provides, "The court has continuing jurisdiction to modify or set aside a judgment or order made under this part," confers at least as broad an authority as that afforded to the juvenile court under Welf. & Inst. Code § 385. The appellate court stated that the question of the former boyfriend's status as a presumed parent under the UPA was addressed in the course of the ongoing dependency proceeding and that the juvenile court had cause to question whether its prior decision on paternity status was correct.

The appellate court additionally found the matter was not foreclosed by operation of res judicata or collateral estoppel. Those common law principles are embodied in Fam. Code § 7636 and similarly subject to the juvenile court's expansive authority to modify or set aside judgments or orders under the UPA set forth in Fam. Code § 7642. The appellate court noted that juvenile court paternity judgments had to be final at some point in time, but it did not need to determine precisely when. The appellate court found that under the circumstances of this case, where the juvenile court had continuing jurisdiction over the parties in an ongoing dependency proceeding, the line was not yet crossed.

#### In re J.W. (2020) 53 Cal. App. 5th 347

Following an order terminating parental rights over two half-sisters, the father of the younger daughter challenged the juvenile court's compliance with the Uniform Child Custody Jurisdiction and Enforcement Act (UCCJEA; Fam. Code § 3400 et seq.), arguing Louisiana should have been the forum for the case. The children's mother separately challenged the juvenile court's compliance with the Indian Child Welfare Act of 1978 (ICWA; 25 U.S.C. § 1901 etseq.) with regard to the father of her older daughter.

The Court of Appeal affirmed. A lack of fundamental jurisdiction is an entire absence of power to hear or determine the case, an absence of authority over the subject matter or the parties. Any judgment made by a court lacking fundamental jurisdiction must be reversed, regardless of harm. Only a claim based on the lack of fundamental jurisdiction can be raised for the first time on appeal.

The UCCJEA does not govern fundamental jurisdiction. Instead, the rules governing jurisdiction in the UCCJEA are mandatory, and a party can forfeit its challenge to the noncompliance by failing to object. Here, even assuming the juvenile court lacked UCCJEA jurisdiction, the father forfeited the ability to raise the argument on appeal. D CFS no longer needed to interview the father's relatives after he stated his understanding that his family might have Indian ancestry was not accurate. The duty of inquiry was satisfied when the father stated that, as far as he knew, he had no Indian ancestry and when he stated his chsanged response regarding possible Indian ancestry was not due to any "hassle" the ICWA may have caused.

#### In re J.W.-P. (2020) 54 Cal. App. 5th 298

A social services agency took a child into custody and initiated dependency proceedings on her behalf after her mother was arrested and incarcerated. During the proceedings, the child's mother testified that R.P. was the child's father, lived with and cared for the child during the first two years of her life, acknowledged the child as his own, and was subject to child support in another state. However, the trial court never provided R.P with the statutory notice required under W&IC section 316.2, which would have advised him of the process for elevating his paternity status from an alleged father and the consequences of not doing so. R.P. was prejudiced by this error because attaining presumed father status would have allowed him to seek custody and otherwise protect his parental rights. For these reasons, the Court vacated a sequence of orders that set a W&IC section 366.26 hearing, selected legal guardianship as the child's permanent plan, and terminated jurisdiction.

The Court of Appeal reversed and the orders vacated. In a dependency case, a man's status as a presumed or biological father is critical to whether he retains his rights to his child. A presumed father is one who receives the child into his home and openly holds out the child as his natural child. A biological father is one who has established his paternity but has not established his qualification as a presumed parent. An



alleged father has established neither biological nor presumed father status. Alleged fathers have fewer rights and, unlike presumed fathers, are not entitled to custody, reunification services, or visitation. A court may order reunification services for biological fathers if they are in the child's best interest but may not do so for alleged fathers.

Despite the social service agency's assertion otherwise, R.P. had standing to appeal even though he only had alleged father status and never personally appeared in the proceedings. Ordinarily, in civil proceedings, personal appearance by a party is not required, and an appearance by an attorney is sufficient and equally instructive. Here, R.P., who lived in Nevada, instructed an appointed attorney to represent him in the proceedings and address his paternity status and related issues. R.P. also told an agency social worker that he wanted custody of the child, and he provided a birth certificate naming him as the child's father.

Where a trial court fails to notify a party of the need to file a writ petition, the party's failure to timely file a writ petition is excused. Here, R.P. did not file a notice of intent to file a writ petition after the trial court set a W&IC section 366.26 hearing. Nonetheless, R.P. could seek review of the order setting the W&IC section 366.26 hearing when appealing from the W&IC section 366.26 hearing. It would be unjust to penalize R.P. for his failure to file a timely writ petition when the trial court had failed to comply with its obligation to provide him with notice of the steps that he needed to take to preserve his rights. This is particularly true given that R.P.'s appointed counsel withdrew his representation the day after the hearing at which the court set the W&IC section 366.26 hearing, and, due to court error, R.P. had no counsel for the next five months.

The notice required by W&IC section 316.2 provides an alleged father with critical information about his limited rights and the procedure he must follow to establish his paternity status, which is to file form JV-505 requesting a judgment of parentage. A trial court that fails to provide this notice thereby denies an alleged father adequate notice of his rights and the ability to access the procedure for establishing paternity, obtaining reunification services, and ultimately obtaining placement of his child in his home or with one of his relatives. Here, the trial court erred by failing to provide R.P. with statutory notice, and the error was not harmless. Had R.P. received the requisite notice and submitted form JV-505, the trial court would have been obligated to make a determination as to his paternity status.

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Attaining presumed father status would then have allowed R.P. to seek custody and otherwise protect his parental rights. Finally, the social services agency did not contest that R.P. would have qualified as a presumed parent based on the record.

#### In re K.T. (2020) 49 Cal.App.5th 20

A non-offending father appealed from a juvenile dependency court's dispositional order to complete a parenting education program. The Court of Appeal reversed. Substantial evidence did not support a juvenile court's order for a non-offending father to complete a parenting program where the baby had been placed in the father's care, the father provided appropriate care for the baby, the father's home was deemed safe with proper supplies, and the father had previously completed a formal parenting program.

#### In re M.R. (2020) 48 Cal.App.5th 412

A mother challenged dispositional orders on the grounds that her reunification case plan included language that she had to "follow all recommendations" made by her service providers. The Court of Appeal affirmed.

The "follow all recommendations" language did not satisfy W&IC § 16501.1 (g)(2), which requires case plans to "identify specific goals and the appropriateness of the planned services in meeting those goals." As written, the case plan failed to identify what services might be recommended and how such services were appropriate for meeting the mother's case plan goals. At the same time, this error was harmless, as there was little likelihood that the "follow all recommendations" language would be invoked in a manner prejudicial to the mother.

#### In re N.D. (2020) 46 Cal. App. 5th 620

Father claimed the disposition order removing his children from his custody must be reversed because the court did not comply with the inquiry and notice requirements of the Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA), and did not make findings on whether the ICWA applied or that the ICWA notice process was complete.

The Court of Appeal conditionally reversed and remanded. The Court said that because the Child Welfare Services sought continuance of foster care placement, it was required to complete its ICWA inquiry and notice process at least 10 days before the disposition hearing. The court was not authorized to proceed with foster care placement until the ICWA





notice had been sent and received.

#### In re Nicole S. (2020) 39 Cal. App. 5th 91

A former nonminor dependent of the juvenile court appealed an order denying her motion for an award of attorney's fees pursuant to Code of Civil Procedure (CCP) § 1021.5. In her motion, the dependent sought a fee award for the work that her attorneys had performed in an interim writ proceeding, through which the dependent successfully challenged an evidentiary decision made by the juvenile court. When denying her motion, the juvenile court ruled (1) it had ancillary jurisdiction to consider the motion even though it lacked subject matter jurisdiction over the dependent due to her age, (2) CCP § 1021.5 does not apply to dependency proceedings, and, (3) even if the statute did apply, the dependent's attorneys were not entitled to a fee award under the facts presented in this case.

The Court of Appeal affirmed. CCP § 1021.5 does not apply to dependency proceedings, and so attorney's fees are not recoverable in dependency cases. According to the Court of Appeal, the financial incentives integral to CCP § 1021.5 are unnecessary in the dependency context and could undermine protections built into the dependency scheme to serve the best interests of children and nonminor dependents by ensuring that all parties are represented by competent counsel.

#### In re S.M. (2020) 52 Cal. App. 5th 659

Mother sought extraordinary writ relief from a juvenile court's orders issued at a combined 6-, 12-, and 18-month review hearing at which the court terminated reunification services and set a W&IC section 366.26 hearing. Mother's sole contention in her writ petition was that the juvenile court erred in denying her visitation. The Court of Appeal directed the parties to file letter briefs on the question of whether mother was provided reasonable services based on her having no visits during the entire reunification period. The juvenile court had found visits would be detrimental to the child, limiting contact to supervised letter writing and gift exchange. Though the juvenile court gave the childwelfare agency discretion to arrange therapeutic visits, the court's detriment finding prevented the agency from exercising that discretion, and the visitation issue was never re-litigated at regular review hearings.

The Court of Appeal reversed. By combining the review hearings and determining the reasonableness of reunification services for the first time at the 18-month review hearing, the juvenile court left open the question

whether mother was provided reasonable visitation during the entire reunification period. The evidence did not support the juvenile court depriving mother of visitation for the entire 18-month period as the facts evolved during the reunification period, yet the question of whether visits continued to be detrimental to the child was never re-litigated. Because there was no review hearing prior to the 18-month review hearing at which mother's visitation could be examined, it was error for the court to place the burden on mother to prove visitation served the child's best interest via a W&IC section 388 petition.

While a parent's progress in court-ordered services is an important consideration in evaluating the child's safety and the prospects for return, it cannot be the deciding factor preventing any parent/child contact where there is no evidence that such contact would be detrimental to the child and where there are no prospects for reunification without it.

#### In re S.O. (2020) 48 Cal.App.5th 781

A child who was previously under dependency and delinquency supervision challenged the dismissal of his dependency case following the county's transition to single status jurisdiction. The child alleged the requirements of W&IC § 241.1 were not met because the child was not present at the dependency dismissal hearing, no recommendation report existed from the probation department, and the juvenile court failed to make necessary findings to support its ruling modifying the child's supervision.

The Court of Appeal affirmed. First, the child waived the right to be present at the hearing by leaving his assigned W&IC § 300 placements. Second, a joint recommendation report was not required prior to the modification of the child's supervision from dual status jurisdiction to single status delinquency jurisdiction. Third, the juvenile court was not required to make any of the findings required under W&IC § 241.1 in support of its ruling.

#### In re S.P. (2020) 55 Cal. App. 5th 355

A father appealed from a juvenile court's dispositional order authorizing his children to receive vaccinations despite a prior vaccination exemption.

The Court of Appeal affirmed. The evidence in the record supported the juvenile court's findings that the children needed the vaccinations and that the prior vaccination exemption was invalid or not currently relevant. The



order authorizing the children's vaccinations was not moot because exemption from vaccinations is a recurrent issue. Children are subject to vaccinations on a periodic or yearly basis. The juvenile court has authority to make all reasonable orders relating to medical treatment for dependent children. Because the juvenile court has inherent authority to decide whether dependent children should be vaccinated, it necessarily has authority to decide all objections to vaccinations, including exemptions. Health and Safety Code section 120372, subdivision (d)(3)(C), which provides that a state public health officer or doctor designated by a state public health officer may revoke a medical exemption, does not preclude a court from taking appropriate action where the evidence demonstrates the exemption was fraudulent or without foundation.

#### In re S.R. (2020) 48 Cal. App. 5th 204

A father appealed a juvenile court's dispositional order removing his 10-year-old daughter from his care, arguing his possession of child pornography did not demonstrate that he possessed a substantial risk of harm to his daughter. The Court of Appeal affirmed. The father was convicted of a felony for possession of child pornography in the home, including possessing sexually explicit images of young girls around the same age as his daughter, and he lacked insight regarding his behavior.

Given the substantial evidence of risk of great harm to the child that the father would sexually abuse his daughter if he is provided unfettered access to her, the removal order was proper.

#### In re S.S. (2020) 55 Cal. App. 5th 355

A noncustodial, non-offending father appealed the juvenile court's orders terminating his parental rights based on problems arising from his poverty, and denying his Welfare and Institutions Code (WIC) section 388 petition for lack of changed circumstances.

The Court of Appeal reversed. The Court reversed the order terminating father's parental rights and remanded for a hearing to address whether legally sufficient current grounds, independent of father's poverty and lack of stable, suitable housing and transportation, would make it detrimental to place the child in his care. The Court's conclusion made it unnecessary to address the denial of father's section 388 petition.

Father could appeal the order setting the WIC section 366.26 hearing, and therefore could challenge the detriment finding, even though he did not seek an extraordinary writ under CRC 8.452. Father was not present at the hearing so written notice was required. The written notice was sent one month late and omitted any mention of the requirement of seeking an extraordinary writ to preserve his appeal rights.

The Court held that a juvenile court may not terminate parental rights based on problems arising from father's poverty. The Court agreed with In re G.S.R. (2008) 159 Cal.App.4th 1202, that father's housing problems did not support the trial court's detriment finding as a basis for terminating father's parental rights. Father lacked adequate housing and transportation, and his problems with visitation recapitulated his problems with housing Father's initial failure to attend counseling sessions did not support a detriment finding. Father could not regain custody of Serenity because of his economic situation, not his parenting ability. The agency's failure to engage with father's core problem - his poverty – and its focus on peripheral issues deprived father and his daughter of years during which they could have established a loving relationship.

Father was entitled to due process protections even though the trial court never formally found him to be a presumed father. Father confirmed he was Serenity's biological father and took a paternity test to confirm he was the biological father. He said he was married to mother, present at Serenity's birth, appeared on her birth certificate, and paid child support, both on his own and under a family court order. he agency rightly conceded father was a presumed father and requested that the trial court make that finding, even though it did not include the request in its formal recommendations. The juvenile court neglected to include father's presumed status in its order but proceeded as if it had, ordering reunification services, appointing counsel, and taking up father's rights.

#### In re T.S. (2020) 52 Cal. App. 5th 503

A noncustodial father residing in another country challenged a juvenile court's denial of his request for a contested hearing on issues of custody and visitation at a W&IC § 364 and § 362.4 hearing, at which the juvenile court terminated jurisdiction with an exit order granting sole custody of the children to the mother.



The Court of Appeal reversed. At a W&IC § 364 hearing at which a juvenile court will issue W&IC § 362.4 family law exit orders, a party is entitled to seek a change in child custody, including removal of custody from the custodial parent for placement in the sole custody a previously noncustodial parent, without first having to file a W&IC § 388 petition or any other petition. When making W&IC § 362.4 exit orders, the court may remove custody of a child from a custodial parent for placement with a noncustodial parent based solely on the child's best interest, without making the findings pursuant to W&IC § 361(c) (clear and convincing evidence of substantial danger and no reasonable means to protect other than removal) that would be required at a disposition hearing.

A juvenile court may require a parent to make an offer of proof before granting a contested evidentiary hearing at a W&IC § 364 and § 362.4 hearing, because the issues to be decided, while significant, do not represent a parent's final opportunity to avert termination of parental rights. A parent's offer of proof was sufficient to warrant an evidentiary hearing where the parent offered to present specific testimony of a private investigator regarding activity observed outside the custodial parent's residence that was relevant to the issues of whether jurisdiction should be terminated and the final custody and visitation orders that would be in the children's best interest.

Error in rejecting an offer of proof was not harmless despite contrary evidence in the record because live testimony from the private investigator, and from the custodial parent in response to the investigator's allegations, would have allowed the juvenile court to make credibility determinations that could reasonably have resulted in a different outcome.

#### In re V.L. (2020) 54 Cal. App. 5th 147

Mother and father were married, but separated in 2017. In January 2019, they had a physical altercation on a public street in the presence of their eight-year old son. Father claimed self-defense, but admitted he grabbed onto mother "pretty hard." The eight-year old son threw something at father's car as father drove away. Father returned a few seconds later, and drove past a stop sign at a high rate of speed. The child provided different versions of what happened, but consistently stated father hit mother with his car and she went flying in the air. Father said he never struck mother with the car, but the car

bumped into her when she got in the way. Based on the surveillance video taken by a neighbor, both the police detective and the children's social worker stated that mother was the primary aggressor, and father was the victim.

Mother, daughter and son reported two prior domestic violence incidents in 2017 when mother was pregnant. Father denied a history of domestic violence and accused mother of fabricating the allegations. The juvenile court sustained allegations under Welfare and Institutions Code (WIC) section 300, subdivisions (a) and (b) pertaining to the parents' history of physical altercations, including the recent 2019 incident when the parents engaged in mutual combat and the son was present, and the 2017 incident when father pushed mother to the ground, when mother was pregnant, in their daughter's presence. At the disposition hearing, the juvenile court removed the children from father, and placed them with mother. Father appealed. He argued that the record was insufficient to support removal by clear and convincing evidence. He further argued that the juvenile court's failure to state the reasons for removal warranted reversal.

The Court of Appeal explained how the substantial evidence standard is to be applied when the clear and convincing standard of proof is required at trial. The Court held that the recent Supreme Court case Conservatorship of O.B. (2020) 9 Cal.5th 989, 995-996, controlled in dependency cases and held the appellate court must assess whether the record as a whole contains substantial evidence from which a reasonable fact finder could have found it highly probable that the fact was true. In making this assessment, the appellate court must view the record in the light most favorable to the prevailing party and give due deference to how the trier of fact may have evaluated the credibility of witnesses, resolved conflicts in the evidence, and drawn reasonable inferences from the evidence. (O.B., supra, 9 Cal.5th at pp. 995-996.)

The Court determined that there was an ongoing cycle of domestic violence.

Father's denial of a history of domestic violence, and accusing mother of fabricating the 2017 incidents, indicated he was unwilling to admit his role in the domestic violence, and that he was less likely to change his behavior in the future. The Court also noted how father minimized his role in the 2019 incident. The Court found that father's progress

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report from his domestic violence program, that he was participating in class and that he regretted his behavior, contained vague statements by a third party that did not establish that father accepted responsibility for his specific conduct. The Court also stated that father's willingness to participate in services was "merely conflicting evidence regarding the risk that he posed to [the children]" and "under the substantial evidence test, it must be disregarded." The Court noted that at the time of the disposition hearing, father had not yet attended individual counseling, and even though he may have made progress with his services, the Court could not second-guess an order supported by substantial evidence.

Finally, because the Court determined that substantial evidence supported the removal order, the Court rejected father's argument that the juvenile court's failure to state the facts it relied upon was reversible error. In addition, the Court stated that because the last domestic violence incident was so dangerous and troubling, it was not reasonably probable that the juvenile court would have reached a different conclusion if it had stated the facts it relied upon. The Court deemed the juvenile court's failure to state facts harmless.

The Court affirmed the juvenile court's dispositional order removing the children from father's custody. The Court concluded that a reasonable trier of fact could have found it highly probable that placement of the children with father would pose a substantial risk of them being harmed by exposure to future domestic violence, and that there were no reasonable means to protect the children without removal from father's physical custody.

#### M.G. v. Superior Court (2020) 46 Cal. App. 5th 646

By petitions for an extraordinary writ, a mother and father challenged the juvenile court's order made at a contested 18-month review hearing, terminating family reunification services and setting a W&IC section 366.26 hearing, on grounds there was an insufficient evidentiary showing the children would be at risk in their care. The Court of Appeal granted the petitions. The child welfare agency failed to present sufficient evidence the children would be at risk if returned to the parents where the mother and the father both participated in and made substantive progress on their case plans, the child welfare agency failed to articulate specific reasons why or how the children would be at risk if placed in mother's

or father's care, and the social worker's opinion that the parents had not resolved their domestic violence issues, was based on a theoretical and speculative future cycle of violence and did not credit the mother's progress in services.

#### THE PRACTICE OF DEPENDENCY LAW

The practice of dependency law provides an opportunity for members of the Dependency Division to be part of the County team along with DCFS to protect abused, neglected, or abandoned children, to preserve and strengthen family ties, and to provide permanency for children.

The purpose of Dependency Court, as embodied in the statutes that govern it, is to provide for the safety and protection of each child under its jurisdiction and to preserve and strengthen the child's family ties whenever possible. Parenting is a fundamental right that may not be disturbed unless a parent is acting in a way that is contrary to the safety and welfare of the child. A child is removed from parental custody only if it is necessary to protect him or her from harm. When the court determines that removal of a child is necessary, reunification of the child with his or her family becomes the primary objective.

The proceedings in Dependency Court differ significantly from civil and criminal actions and affect the fundamental rights of both parents and children. Knowledge of the law and the case, combined with insight and judgment, enable County Counsel to work cases with opposing counsel in a spirit of cooperation to achieve realistic and reasonable results for the family and child while assuring that the child is protected.

#### A. PRE-FILING PROCEDURES

Prior to the initiation of a dependency court case, a child abuse investigation is initiated through a call to the Child Protection Hotline. DCFS has the responsibility of investigating allegations of child abuse and neglect and determining whether a petition should be filed alleging that the child comes within the jurisdiction of the Dependency Court. Should the Children's Social Worker (CSW) determine that a child is in need of the protection of the juvenile court, the CSW submits the petition request to the Intake and Detention Control Section (IDC) of DCFS. County Counsel staffs the IDC with attorneys who review the petitions to ensure they are legally sufficient. In addition, the IDC attorneys

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give legal advice on detention and filing issues.

Once a petition has been filed, the petitioner (DCFS), through its attorney, has the burden of proof at the initial hearing and subsequent jurisdiction, disposition, review, and selection and implementation hearings held in Dependency Court. There is a direct calendaring system in Dependency Court, whereby all hearings in a case are heard before the same judicial officer, whenever possible. In addition, the County Counsel provides vertical representation throughout the proceedings, which ensures necessary continuity and familiarity on a case.

#### **B. INITIAL HEARING**

The purpose of the initial petition hearing is to advise parents of the allegations in the petition and to decide detention issues.

Based on prima facie evidence submitted in the CSW's detention report, the court makes a determination whether (1) the child should remain detained and (2) if the child comes within the description of Welfare and Institutions Code ("WIC") section 300 (a) - (j). County Counsel advocates on behalf of DCFS for continued detention if it appears necessary for the safety and protection of the child because of the following circumstances:

- There is a substantial danger to the physical health of the child or the child is suffering severe emotional damage, and there are no reasonable means by which the child's emotional or physical health can be protected without removing the child from the custody of the parents or guardian; or
- There is substantial evidence that a parent, guardian, or custodian of the child is likely to flee the jurisdiction of the court; the child has left a placement in which he or she was placed by the Dependency Court; or,
- The child indicates an unwillingness to return home and has been physically or sexually abused by a person residing in the home.

If the juvenile court orders a child detained, the court must make a finding that there is substantial danger to the physical and/or emotional health and safety of the child and there are no reasonable means to protect the child without removing the child from the custody of the parents. The court also must make a finding that reasonable efforts were made to prevent or eliminate the need to remove the child from parental custody.

#### C. JURISDICTION

At the Jurisdiction hearing, DCFS has the burden of proof to establish, by a preponderance of the evidence, that the allegations in the petition are true and that the child has suffered, or there is a substantial risk that the child will suffer, serious physical or emotional harm or injury.

The parties may set a matter for a mandatory settlement conference or a Pretrial Resolution Conference during which County Counsel participates in settlement negotiations with other counsel.

Alternatively, the matter may be set for Adjudication. If the child is detained from the parent's home, the matter must be calendared within 15 court days. If the child is released to a parent, the time for trial is 30 calendar days. At the Adjudication, County Counsel litigates the counts set forth in the petition to establish the legal basis for the court's assumption of jurisdiction. If it is necessary to call a child as a witness, County Counsel or the child's attorney may request that the court permit the child to testify out of the presence of the parents. The court will permit chambers testimony if the child is (1) intimidated by the courtroom setting, (2) afraid to testify in front of his or her parents, or (3) it is necessary to assure that the child tell the truth.

The social study report prepared by the CSW, attachments to the report, and hearsay statements in the report may be used as substantive evidence subject to specific objections. The CSW, as the preparer of the report, must be available for cross-examination.

At the conclusion of testimony, the court may find the allegations true and sustain the petition; find some of the allegations true and sustain an amended petition; or, find the child is not a person described by WIC § 300 and dismiss the petition.

#### D. DISPOSITION

If the child is found by the court to be a person described by Welfare and Institutions Code sections 300 (a) - (j), a disposition hearing is held immediately following the jurisdiction hearing to determine the



proper plan for the child. The Disposition hearing may be continued for good cause up to 10 court days after the Adjudication if the minor is detained, or within 30 calendar days if DCFS is recommending the court order no reunification services for the parents, or if DCFS seeks to release the child to the custody of a parent.

If DCFS recommends that the child be removed from parental custody, County Counsel must establish by clear and convincing evidence that return of the child to his or her parents would create a substantial risk of detriment to the safety, protection, or physical or emotional well-being of the child, and there are no reasonable means by which to protect the child. A non-custodial parent is entitled to custody of his or her child unless it can be shown that custody would be detrimental to the safety, protection, or physical or emotional well-being of the child. When the court is making a placement decision for a child, it first must consider placement with the custodial parent followed by the non-custodial parent, relative, foster home, community care facility, foster family agency, or group home. In addition, the court is required to develop and/or maintain sibling relationships whenever possible

If a child is removed from parental custody, the court may order family reunification services for the parents. There must be a reunification plan that is designed to meet the needs of the family, which may include a parenting class, individual and conjoint counseling, domestic violence programs and other treatment modalities that will alleviate the problems that led to dependency court involvement. If the child is three years of age or older, the period of reunification services is twelve months from the date the child entered foster care and may not exceed 18 months from detention. If the child is under three years of age at the time of initial removal, a parent has six months from the date of the disposition hearing to successfully reunify with the child. The court has the discretion to limit the period of reunification for older siblings when one of the siblings is less than three years old.

In 2009, the statutory time for reunification services was modified. The law now provides that if, at the eighteen-month review hearing, the permanent plan for the child is that he or she will be returned and safely maintained in the home within the extended time period, the court may extend reunification services to 24 months from the date the child was removed from the parent's custody. The court shall

extend the time period only if it finds that it is in the child's best interest to have the time period extended and that there is a substantial probability that the child will be returned to the physical custody of his or her parent or guardian within the extended time period, or that reasonable services have not been provided to the parent or guardian.

Reunification services are not ordered in all cases. If a parent is in custody, the court may deny reunification services if it finds it would be detrimental to the child to order reunification services. If DCFS has determined that it would not be in the best interests of the child to reunify with his or her parents, County Counsel must demonstrate to the court that the specific statutory criteria have been met on which the court may base a non-reunification order.

There are seventeen statutory grounds under which a court may deny reunification services to the parent. Those grounds are:

- The whereabouts of the parent or guardian is unknown;
- The parent or guardian is suffering from a mental illness and is incapable of benefiting from reunification services:
- A child or sibling has been physically or sexually abused as determined on two separate dependency petitions;
- The parent or guardian has caused the death of a child through abuse or neglect;
- The child is under 5 years old and has been severely physically abused;
- The child or the child's sibling has been severely sexually abused or severely physically harmed;
- The parent or guardian is not receiving reunification services for a sibling or half sibling pursuant to Welfare and Institutions Code section 361.5, subdivisions (b)(3), (5) or (6);
- The child has been conceived under Penal Code Sections 288 or 288.5 (rape);
- The child has been willfully abandoned which has caused serious danger to the child, or the child has been voluntarily surrendered;
- Reunification services have been terminated for a sibling after the sibling was removed from the home and the parent or guardian has not made a reasonable effort to treat the problem that led to the removal of the sibling;
- Parental rights were terminated on a sibling, and the parent or guardian has not made a reasonable effort to treat the problems that led to the removal of the sibling;





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- The parent or guardian has been convicted of a violent felony as defined in Penal Code section 667.5.
- The parent or guardian is a chronic abuser of drugs or alcohol, and has resisted court ordered treatment:
- The parent or guardian has advised the court that he or she is not interested in receiving family reunification services or having the child placed in his or her custody;
- The parent or guardian has on one or more occasions abducted the child or the child's sibling;
- That the parent or guardian has been required by the court to be registered on a sex offender registry under the federal Adam Walsh Child Protection and Safety Act of 2006; or
- That the parent or guardian knowingly participated in, or permitted, the sexual exploitation of the child.

If the court has not ordered reunification services for the family, a hearing to select and implement a permanent plan must be calendared within 120 days. If the parent's whereabouts are unknown, the selection and implementation hearing is not scheduled until after the initial six-month review hearing is held.

#### E. REVIEW HEARINGS

(WIC section 364) If the court has ordered that the child reside with a parent, the case will be reviewed every six months until the court determines that conditions no longer exist that brought the child within the court's jurisdiction, the child is safe in the home, and jurisdiction may be terminated.

(WIC section 366.21 (e).) If the court has ordered family reunification services, the subsequent review hearings are held every six months. At each of the review hearings, the court reviews the status of the child and the progress the parents have made with their case plan. The court is mandated to return the child to the custody of his or her parents unless it finds by a preponderance of the evidence that return would create a substantial risk of detriment to the safety, protection, physical, or emotional well-being of the child. Failure of a parent to participate regularly and make substantive progress in court-ordered treatment programs is prima facie evidence that return of the child would be detrimental.

If the child was under the age of three on the date

of initial removal from parental custody, the first sixmonth review hearing is a permanency hearing.

(WIC section 366.21 (f)) The 12-month review hearing is the permanency hearing for a child who was three or older on the date of initial removal from parental custody. If the child is not returned to the custody of his or her parents, the court must terminate reunification services and set the matter for a hearing at which a permanent plan of adoption, guardianship, or long term foster care is selected. In rare instances, the court may continue the case for an additional six months if it finds that there is a substantial probability that the child will be safely returned and maintained in the home by the time of the next hearing.

(WIC section 366.22) The permanency hearing must occur within 18 months of the original detention of the child. If the child is not returned to the custody of his or her parents, the court must terminate reunification services and set the matter for a hearing at which a permanent plan of adoption, guardianship, or long term foster care is selected. In rare instances, the court may continue the case for an additional six months if a parent was recently released from incarceration, is in a court-ordered in-patient drug program and is making significant and consistent progress, or was a minor or nonminor dependent parent at the time of detention and is making significant and consistent progress in establishing a safe home for the child's return, and the court finds that there is a substantial probability that the child will be safely returned and maintained in the home by the time of the next hearing. Particularly, the court must take into consideration the barriers of an incarcerated or institutionalized parent in determining whether to extend reunification services. The court also must determine, by clear and convincing evidence, that additional reunification services are in the child's best interest, and the parent is making significant and consistent progress, and there is a substantial probability that the child will be returned to the physical custody of his or her parent within the extended period.

(WIC section 366.25) The permanency hearing must occur within 24 months of the original detention of the child. If the child is not returned to the custody of his or her parents, the court must terminate reunification services and set the matter for a hearing at which a permanent plan of adoption, guardianship, or long term foster care is selected.

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(WIC section 366.26) The selection and implementation hearing is the hearing at which the court selects the permanent plan for the child. The preferred plan is adoption followed by legal guardianship and a planned permanent living arrangement. If the court selects adoption as the plan, before terminating parental rights, the court must find by clear and convincing evidence that the child is adoptable. If the child is adoptable, the court shall terminate parental rights unless one of the following circumstances applies:

- A relative caretaker is unwilling or unable to adopt because of circumstances that do not include an unwillingness to accept legal or financial responsibility for the child, and removal of the child from the relative would be detrimental to the child.
- Termination would be detrimental to the child because the parents have maintained regular visitation and contact with the child, the child will benefit from continuing the relationship, and the benefit from continuing the parental relationship will outweigh the benefit derived from the permanence of an adoptive home.
- Termination would be detrimental to the child because a child 12 years of age or older does not wish to be adopted.
- Termination would be detrimental to the child because the child requires residential treatment and adoption is unlikely or undesirable.
- Termination would be detrimental to the child because there would be substantial interference with a child's sibling relationship.
- Termination would be detrimental to the child because the child is living with a non- relative caretaker who is unwilling or unable to adopt because of exceptional circumstances, and removal of the child from that home would be detrimental to the child.
- Termination would not be in the best interest of the child because there would be a substantial interference with the Indian child's connection to his or her tribal community or the child's tribal membership rights.
- Termination would not be in the best interest of the child because the Indian child's tribe has identified guardianship or long term foster care with a fit or willing relative as an appropriate plan.

(WIC Section 366.3) After the permanency hearing, the court reviews the status of the child at least once every six months. The court determines the progress

made to provide a permanent home for the child and efforts extended to find and maintain significant relationships between the child and individuals who are important to the child. Sibling relationships are evaluated and maintained where possible.

Emancipation and independent living services which have been offered are reviewed for the teenager as he or she approaches adulthood.

#### F. NON MINOR DEPENDENTS

"Nonminor dependent" means a foster child who is a current dependent child or ward of the juvenile court, or who is a nonminor under the transition jurisdiction of the juvenile court, has attained 18 years of age while under an order of foster care placement. The juvenile court may retain jurisdiction over these young adults until the age of 21. In certain circumstances, a child who is no longer a foster child can petition the court to reenter foster care after his 18th birthday.

#### **GLOSSARY**

**Brief**: A document filed in court that summarizes the facts of the case and then analyzes the facts in accordance with applicable law.

**Chambers**: The judge or hearing officer's office.

**Command Post:** The DCFS office that handles after hour emergency detentions

**Concession letter**: A letter to the reviewing court that admits the opposing party's argument has merit.

**Detention hearing**: The initial hearing that is held in dependency court following the removal of a child from parental custody and the filing of a petition.

**Direct Calendaring:** A case is assigned to a courtroom at the initial hearing and will remain in the same courtroom throughout the proceedings.

**Disposition**: If the child is found to be a person described in Welfare and Institutions code section 300, a disposition hearing is held to determine the appropriate placement of the child and the case plan.

**Family reunification**: Child welfare services provided to a child and the child's parents or guardians to facilitate reunification of the family.

Hearsay: An out of court statement offered in

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evidence for the truth of the matter stated.

**Indian Child Welfare Act**: Federal law enacted to protect and preserve American Indian Families

Initial hearing: See detention hearing

**Jurisdiction**: The scope of the court's authority to make orders. A child who comes within the description of Welfare and Institutions code section 300 (a)-(j) falls within the juvenile court's jurisdiction.

**Legal Guardianship**: Legal authority and responsibility for the care of a child.

**Non-Related Extended Family Member:** An adult caregiver who has an established familial or mentoring relationship with the child.

**Notice**: Formal communication with a party, usually written, informing them of court proceedings.

**Planned Permanent Living Arrangement**: Formerly Long Term foster care. A permanent plan for a dependent child for whom neither adoption nor legal quardianship is a viable plan.

**Preponderance of Evidence**: The standard of proof where a court is only required to find that it is more likely than not that the thing sought to be proven is true.

**Pretrial Resolution Conference**: A court hearing held prior to the jurisdictional hearing, in which the parties

meet in an attempt to resolve the issues before the court.

**Prima Facie Evidence**: Evidence that, if uncontradicted, would support the requested finding. In a dependency proceeding, the court, at an initial hearing, needs only prima facie evidence that the child is described by Welfare and Institutions code section 300 and may not remain safely in the home of the parent or guardian in order to make detention findings

**Review hearing**: Hearings which occur every six months during which the court reviews the appropriateness of the case plan

**Selection and Implementation hearing**: Hearing at which the court selects and implements a permanent plan for the child. That plan can be either adoption,

legal guardianship, or, on rare occasions, a planned permanent living arrangement.

**Social Study Report**: A report prepared by the children's social worker that provides information to the court regarding the problems challenging a family and the family's progress regarding those challenges.

**Termination of Parental Rights (TPR)**: If the court determines that adoption is the appropriate plan at the Selection and Implementation hearing, the court must free the child for adoption by terminating parental rights, unless one of the statutory exceptions to termination of parental rights applies.

**Vertical Representation**: In dependency proceedings, an attorney representing a party remains on the case at all stages of the proceedings, so as to provide continuity of representation.





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# DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN AND FAMILY SERVICES

The Los Angeles County Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) began operations on December 1, 1984. The Department's 9,000+ staff provides legally mandated Emergency Response, Family Maintenance, Family Reunification, Permanent Placement and Adoptions services to children and families in its 20 Regional offices throughout the County.

#### **VISION**

Safe Children, Healthy Families, Strong Communities.

#### **MISSION**

The Los Angeles County Department of Children and Family Services promotes child safety and well-being by partnering with communities to strengthen families, keeping children at home whenever possible, and connecting them with stable, loving homes in times of need.

#### **GUIDING PRINCIPLES:**

- Stabilize and Preserve Families
- Family ReunificationPermanency
- Lifelong Relationships

#### Child Welfare Services/Case Management System (CWS/CMS) Outcomes System

Child Welfare Services/Case Management System (CWS/CMS) Outcomes System, formerly known as The Child Welfare System Improvement and Accountability Act (AB 636) began on January 1, 2004, and outlines how California counties are held accountable for ensuring the safety, permanency and well-being of children served by child welfare agencies. This statewide accountability system focuses on the reporting and measurement of results achieved for children. AB 636 improves services for children through supporting state and county partnerships; requiring counties to publicly share their results for children and families



and collaborate with community partners; mandating county-specific system improvement plans; and encouraging interagency coordination and shared responsibility for families.

The goals of the CWS/CMS Outcome System implementation are as follows:

- Protect children from abuse and neglect.
- Maintain children safely in their own homes, whenever possible.
- Achieve Permanency and stability for children in their living situations.
- Preserve continuity of family relationships and connections for children.
- Enhance the capability of families to provide for their children's needs.
- Ensure children receive appropriate services to meet their educational needs.
- Ensure children receive adequate services to meet their physical and mental health needs.
- Prepare youth aging out from foster care to transition to adulthood.

CWS/CMS is the system child welfare uses in the state of California to track system outcomes. Performance indicators measuring progress toward these goals include: recurrence of maltreatment; maltreatment in foster care; placement stability; and timely permanence. These and other data are tracked and reported by the California Child Welfare Indicators Project (CCWIP), a collaboration between the University of California, Berkeley (UCB) and the California Department of Social Services (CDSS). The project is housed at UCB's School of Social Welfare and provides policymakers, child welfare workers, researchers, and the public with direct access to customizable information about California's child welfare system.

#### **CHILD WELFARE SERVICES**

#### **Emergency Response**

Emergency Response (ER) staff responds to referrals of child abuse and/or neglect. Staff use Structured Decision Making (SDM) tools to conduct a thorough safety and risk assessment to determine the level of risk to a child and the validity of the allegation.

#### **Prevention Services**

Child maltreatment results in serious lifelong physical and mental health consequences for children. It is critical to prevent child maltreatment before it occurs and to prevent a recurrence of child maltreatment. In this endeavor, DCFS provides prevention programs and services such as Prevention and Aftercare Program (P&A), Child Abuse Prevention, Intervention, and Treatment (CAPIT), Partnership for Families (PFF), and Incarcerated Parents Program (IPP) through community agencies contracted with DCFS.

The P&A program provides prevention services to any Los Angeles County family who is at risk of child abuse and/or neglect. P&A focuses on preventing child maltreatment and recurrence of child maltreatment by building and strengthening families' protective capacities. CAPIT is also available to any Los Angeles County family who is at risk of child abuse and/or neglect. CAPIT services include individual, family and group counseling, parent support/education, and in-home services. The PFF program provides home visitation to families with the following conditions: a child aged five or younger; a closed inconclusive or substantiated ER referral; and the referral is assessed as high or very high risk on the SDM tool. In partnership with the Friends Outside in Los Angeles County (FOLA) and the Sheriff's Department, IPP works to decrease the emotional trauma experienced by children resulting from their parents' incarceration. ¹The IPP creates opportunities for improved contact between parents and their children and works to ensure that these relationships are nurtured .2

#### **Family Maintenance**

Family Maintenance (FM) is the provision of court ordered, or if appropriate, voluntary child welfare services to families when the child can remain safely in their home. These services are limited to twelve months.

#### Family Reunification

Family Reunification (FR) provides time-limited

<sup>1.</sup> World Health Organization. (2020). Child Maltreatment Fact Sheet. Retrieved from: https://www.who.int/news-room/fact-sheets/detail/child-maltreatment; Strathearn, L., Giannotti, M., et al. (2020). Long-term Cognitive, Psychological, and Health Outcomes Associated with Child Abuse and Neglect. Pediatrics, 146(4): e20200438. https://doi.org/10.1542/peds.2020-0438

<sup>2.</sup> DCFS Community-Based Support Division, IPP Program Website. Updated December 12, 2019.



foster care services to prevent abuse when the child cannot safely remain at home and needs temporary foster care while services are provided to reunite the family.

#### **Permanent Placement**

Permanent Placement (PP) services provide an alternate, permanent family structure for children who cannot safely remain at home and who are unlikely to be reunified with their parent(s) or primary caretaker(s).

#### **REFERRALS RECEIVED**

During Calendar Year 2020 (henceforth, all years refer to calendar years), the DCFS Child Abuse Hotline received a total of 62,624 referrals , involving 117,888 children for allegations of child abuse or neglect. The number of referred children, representing 5.1% of the child population (0 – 18 years old) in Los Angeles County , is considerable given that it concerned only a single year. Nationally, 37% of children are reported at least once to Child Protective Services by their 18th birthday  $^{\rm 1}$ .

During the last three years, the number of referred children has continuously decreased. In 2018, the number of referred children decreased by 6.0% compared to 2017, and by 3.9% between 2018 and 2019. The number of referred children in 2020 significantly decreased by 24.4% than the previous year (Figure 1).

The number of referrals that were serious enough to be involved in an in-person investigation also continuously decreased. In 2019, the number of in-person referrals decreased by 7.6% compared to 2018, and by 27.2% between 2019 and 2020. In 2020, 74% of all referrals representing 87,195 children were involved in an in-person investigation whereas 26% representing 30,693 children were

3. Data source: DCFS CWS/CMS Datamart database as of January 6, 2021 for referrals received from January 1, 2020 to December 31, 2020.

closed without an investigation because they did not meet the criteria for an in-person response time, termed "evaluated out" (Figure 2).

Figure 3 shows the number of referred children by Service Planning Area (SPA) for the current reporting period . SPA 6 had the highest number of referred children, followed by SPA 2. The Referral Map shows all referred children by DCFS office, which include in-person referrals and evaluated-out referrals. South County had the highest number of referrals, followed by Santa Fe Springs, Pasadena, Belvedere, and Van Nuys.

#### **Referrals by Allegation Type**

When child abuse referrals alleging child maltreatment are counted, CDSS defines seven reporting categories of abuse and neglect. Also included is the "At Risk, Sibling Abuse," which was added during the implementation of CWS/CMS. This refers to siblings who may be at risk of abuse, but are not identified as victims.

Figure 4 shows the distribution by allegation type of all referrals in 2020. General Neglect continues to be the most reported allegation type, followed by At Risk, Sibling Abuse. General Neglect accounted for 39.3% of the children referred to DCFS in 2020, slightly increasing from 35.9% in 2019. At Risk, Sibling Ab²use accounted for 18.4%. Physical abuse accounted for 13.9%. Since the number of referred children in 2020 decreased by 24.4% compared to the previous year, it is not surprising to see decreases for most types of allegations. However, Exploitation accounted for a very small percentage of the children and exhibited an increase of 12% representing 28 children.

#### Referrals by Race/Ethnicity and Age

African American children are over-represented in the child welfare system and exhibited the largest disproportionality. Figure 5 shows referrals by race/ethnicity and age. African American children accounted for 17.1% of all referred children while they represent only 7.5% of the child population (aged 0-20) in the county in 2020. Hispanic/Latino

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<sup>4. 2019</sup> Population Estimate data source: County of Los Angeles, Internal Services Department, Social Services Systems Division, Estimated Census Tract-City Split Population for Children ages 0 to 18 within the County of Los Angeles, CA.

<sup>5.</sup> Invisible children. (2017). Child abuse statistics. Retrieved from http://www.invisiblechildren/org/2017/12/29/child-abuse-statistics-the-best-resources/

<sup>6.</sup> Los Angeles County DCFS Child Protection Hotline policy 0050-502.10

<sup>7.</sup> Refer to the Los Angeles County SPA maps and the ZIP Code list at the end of the DCFS report to identify the communities in each SPA.

<sup>8.</sup> Population data source: California Department of Finance. (2019). 2010-2060 Population Projections by Race/Ethnicity, Detailed Age, & Gender.



children accounted for the largest proportion of all referred children at 51.0% and represent the majority of the child population at 58.4%. White and Asian/Pacific Islander children were under-represented. White children accounted for 13.2% of all referred children and represent 19.8% of the child population. Asian/Pacific Islander children accounted for 3.0% of all referred children and represent 10.9% of the child population.

characteristic Age is another to detect disproportionality. Infants and toddlers particularly vulnerable to maltreatment. As shown in Figure 5, children aged 0-2 accounted for 16.8% of all referred children while they represent 12.1% of the child population. Children aged 3-15 accounted for 72.4% of all referred children while they represent 61.3% of the population.

#### **Domestic Violence Related Referrals**

The primary data source for domestic violence related referrals is the SDM database. Of referrals in 2020, a total of 9,647 referrals (8.2%) had an identified concern about domestic violence, which is smaller than in 2019 (11,566). As shown in Figure 6, by allegation type, more than half of the domestic violence related referrals were for General Neglect (60.5%), followed by Emotional Abuse (24.7%). When broken down by age, 48.0% of children of domestic violence-related referrals were 0-5 years old and 27.9% of children were 6-10 years old (Figure 7). By reporter type, 57.8% of the domestic violence related referrals were reported by Law Enforcement/ Probation Officer, and 24.4% were reported by Government Agency, CWS Staff, School Personnel, Counselor, and Other Professional (Figure 8).

#### **Recurrence of Maltreatment**

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It is concerning that a child is abused or neglected, but it is alarming when the same child repeatedly experiences abuse. Of the victims of a substantiated maltreatment during April–June 2020, 7.2% had a subsequent referral substantiated by DCFS within 12 months of the initial substantiation. Although the figure is lower than the national standard, 9.1%, DCFS is focused on reducing this number.

# IN-HOME AND OUT-OF-HOME SERVICES CASELOAD

DCFS provides both in-home and out-of-home services to children and their families. As of the last day of 2020, a total of 38,622 children received in-

home and out-of-home services, which represents a 10.1% increase from 2019 (Figure 9). Figure 9 shows the caseload breakdown by five child welfare service components: Emergency Response; Family Maintenance; Family Reunification; Permanent Placement and the newly designated category of Supportive Transition. Family Maintenance accounted for 37.7% of the caseload while Family Reunification and Permanent Placement each accounted for about 27%.

Similar to the number of referrals by SPA, SPA 6 exhibited the largest caseload of both in-home and out-of-home services while SPA 5 the smallest (Figure 10). The Caseload Map shows in-home and out-of-home services caseload by office in 2020. South County had the highest number of cases, followed by Vermont Corridor, Belvedere, Metro North, and Lancaster.

#### CHILD CHARACTERISTICS

Figure 11 exhibits the demographic data on children served by DCFS in 2020 by age group, race/ethnicity, and gender.

#### Age

- The most vulnerable DCFS clients are children ages birth - 2 years old. Children in this age group accounted for 18.9% of the total caseload, which is much greater than the group's overall percentage of the child population, 12.1%.
- The number of children ages birth 2 years old increased 2.2% from 7,160 in 2019 to 7,318 in 2020.

#### Race/Ethnicity

 Children receiving DCFS services experience similar disproportionality as seen in referrals. African American children accounted for 23.4% of the DCFS caseload, which is much greater than the child population (7.5%). The percentage of th¹eir caseload is also greater than that of referrals (17.1%, Figure 5). This is indicative of African American children experiencing a serious



<sup>9.</sup> If there is a subsequent report of maltreatment within 14 days of the earlier report, it is not counted as recurrent maltreatment. Youth aged 18 or more are excluded from the calculation of this indicator. Data source: DCFS BIS 01.27.16 (v3). Data-Driven Decision Making Dashboard- Methodology and FAQs

<sup>10.</sup> DCFS dashboard as of November 14, 2021



disproportionality.

- As Hispanics are the majority of the child population, they also accounted for the majority of the caseload at 58.1%, but exhibited no disproportionality compared to the general population. The number of Hispanic children increased 11.5% from 20,131 in 2019 to 22,452 in 2020.
- White and Asian/Pacific Islander children accounted for 11.9% and 1.7% of the DCFS caseload respectively while they represent 19.8% and 10.9% of the child population.

#### Gender

 In 2020, the DCFS caseload was evenly represented by male and female.

#### CHILDREN IN OUT-OF-HOME PLACEMENT

California's Continuum of Care Reform (CCR) is a series of reforms advancing the state's goal of having all children live as members of committed, nurturing, and permanent families. Its provisions reduce the use of congregate care placement settings for children and youth, increases the use of home-based family care, and decreases the length of time required to achieve permanency. As part of this reform, homes that were formally listed as Relative/ Non-Relative Extended Family Member (Relative/ NREFM) and Foster Home have been categorized as Resource Family Homes. Effective as of January 1, 2017, Resource Family Approval (RFA) established one approval process for any prospective foster, adoption, relative or non-relative extended family member. A home is known as a "Resource Family Home" once "Approved." Caregivers in existence prior to January 1, 2017 are to be converted to RFA categories by December 31, 2020. As a result, some of our current caregivers are not RFA approved.

Figure 12 shows children in out-of-home placement by SPA. The total number of children in out-of-home placement increased 4.9% from 17,919 in 2019 to 18,799 in 2020. As the reform progressed, more children were placed in Resource Family Homes. The most significant change was seen by children who were placed in a relative/non-relative extended family member home. The number of children in this category decreased 60.9% from 590 in 2019 to 231 in 2020. Many of the homes have been recategorized to Resource Family Homes: Resource Family Home Non-Relative and Resource Family

Home Relative. Overall, 49.6% percent of children were placed in a Resource Family Home Relative placement and 14.1% in a Resource Family Home Non-Relative placement.

#### **Re-entry to Foster Care**

Ongoing safety and stability in the family after permanency is vital for child wellbeing and prevention of the recurrence of maltreatment. Of all children who entered foster care in a quarter (April – June 2019) and discharged within 12 months to reunification, living with a relative(s), or guardianship, 9.2% reentered foster care within 12 months of their initial discharge . This is slightly higher than the national standard, 8.3%. Intervention efforts in collaboration with community partners are critical.

#### **Transition Aged Youth**

Transition aged youth is defined as youth aged 16-21. Many in this age group, especially transition aged youth with mental health challenges or disabilities, need special attention because they are not ready for self-sufficiency when they leave the child welfare system. Research shows they may face serious challenges in life. Thus, the department provides youth with services such as the Independent Living Program.

In 2020, 427 transition aged youth exited the child welfare system. As shown in Figure 13, 41.5% of the youth who exited the child welfare system were 21 years old, followed by youth aged 18 (39.8%). Of the transition aged youth who exited the child welfare system, 29.3% lived in a Supervised Independent Living Placement, 20.6% lived in a Guardian Home, 12.2% in a Foster Family Agency Certified Home, and 12.2% in a Short Term Residential Therapeutic Program (Figure 14). Reaching the age of majority accounts for 57.4% of the youth who left the child welfare system (Figure 15).

#### PERMANENCY PARTNERS PROGRAM (P3)

The Permanency Partners Program (P3) was created in 2004 to provide family finding services to youth in long-term foster care in need of permanent connections. Retired and part-time social workers are employed as secondary workers with a focus on searching for relatives and Non-Related Extended

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Family Members (NREFM)¹ who can provide support, placement or permanency. The P3 workers utilize a variety of search techniques including online investigative platforms and social media to locate family/NREFM, provide opportunities for them to connect with youth through visits or phone calls, and assists the primary social worker with placement paperwork. P3 services focus on providing permanency to youth, which includes reunification with parents, identifying relatives and other adults to provide legal guardianship or adoption and lifelong connections.

In 2020, the Backend P3 program provided family finding services for 1,779 children and youth. Of those, a total of 100 have an identified permanency outcome or are moving toward permanency:

- 1. 46 cases were closed with the following outcomes:
- 20 youth had a permanent plan established
- o 4 youth returned home to a parent and had their child welfare case closed
- o 15 youth were adopted
- o 1 youth had a legal guardian appointed and their case closed through Kin-Gap
- 22 youth exited DCFS care with an adult lifelong connection
- 4 youth exited without a permanent plan (They are not included in the total of 100)
- 2. 58 youth were moving towards a permanent plan
- 38 youth were moving towards reunification with a parent
- 10 youth who were previously opposed to adoption were involved in adoption planning
- 10 youth had a plan of legal guardianship identified and were moving through the court process

In May 2016, the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors enacted a motion instructing P3 to implement a protocol to provide family finding efforts to children as close to the time of detention as possible. In October 2016, the Upfront Family Finding (UFF) program commenced in the Glendora and Santa Fe Springs offices to provide family finding services to children within days of detention. In January 2018, UFF was implemented in the West Los Angeles and Vermont Corridor offices, and in 2019 expanded to the South County, Belvedere, Santa Clarita, West San Fernando Valley, Hawthorne and Wateridge offices. Due to the program's observed success, efforts are currently underway to expand UFF countywide.

In 2020, UFF provided family finding services for 1,068 children from all 10 offices. A total of 954 have had their cases closed and are no longer under DCFS supervision. Of those, 97% returned home to parent, less than 1% were closed through Kin-gap, less than 1% had a lifelong connection, and only 1% closed with no permanency option identified.

Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, the number of referrals received by the Child Protection Hotline, as well as numbers of detentions decreased dramatically. Additionally, the P3 backend program received less referrals than typical.

#### **ADOPTION PLANNING**

Figures 16 and 17 show the number of children placed in adoptive homes from CY 1986 through CY 2020. During CY 2020, there were 1,414 children placed in adoptive homes compared to 2,331 placements in CY 2019. This represents a 39.3% decrease.

#### **241.1 HEARINGS**

Figure 18 represents data on youth referred for 241.1 Joint Assessment Hearings by either Dependency Court or Delinquency Court. Children under the jurisdiction of Dependency Court account for 2.9% of the youth referred, and Delinquency Court accounts for 97.1% of youth referred. The number of children who were referred to Dependency Court increased from 10 in 2019 to 19 in 2020. The number of children referred to Delinquency Court decreased by 26.7% between 2019 and 2020.

#### **ICAN PUBLIC WEB SITE**

The public may access the DCFS CY 2020 Data Statement as part of the ICAN State of Child Abuse in

<sup>11.</sup> DCFS dashboard as of November 14, 2021. Children discharged to adoption, who re-enter within 12 months and children in foster care for less than 8 days or who enter or exit foster care at age 18 or more were excluded from the calculation of this indicator. Data source: DCFS BIS 01.27.16 (v3). Data-Driven Decision Making Dashboard- Methodology and FAQs, as of November 14, 2021.

<sup>12.</sup> Data source: Permanency Partners Program as of October 8. 2021.



Los Angeles County Report for 2020 at the following Web Site address:

#### http:\\ICAN.CO.LA.CA.US

#### **GLOSSARY**

**Adoption:** A legal process in which a child is freed from his or her birth parents by relinquishment, consent or termination of parental rights and placed with applicants who have been approved to take a child into their own family and raise as their own with all of the rights and responsibilities granted thereto including, but not limited to, the right of inheritance. Adoption terminates any inheritance from the parents or other relatives to the child unless they make specific provision by will or trust; the child legally inherits from his or her adoptive parents. The adoption of an American Indian child terminates inheritance from the biological parents or other relatives to the child; however, any rights or benefits the child has or may be eligible for as a result of his or her status as an American Indian are unaffected. (Title 22, California Administrative Code, Division 2, Chapter 3, Subchapter 4).

**Age of majority:** It is the threshold of adulthood as recognized or declared in law. The threshold in California is 18 years of age.

At Risk, Sibling Abuse: Based upon WIC 300 subdivision (j), the child's sibling has been abused or neglected, as defined in WIC 300 subdivision (a), (b), (d), (e), or (i) and there is a substantial risk that the child will be abused or neglected, as defined in those subdivisions. The court shall consider the circumstances surrounding the abuse or neglect of the sibling, the age and gender of each child, the nature of the abuse or neglect of the sibling, the mental condition of the parent or guardian and any other factors the court considers probative in determining whether there is a substantial risk to the child.

Calendar Year (CY): A period of time beginning January 1 through December 31 for any given year.

California Department of Social Services (CDSS): The state agency in California responsible for aiding, servicing and protecting needy children and adults. At the same time, the Department strives to strengthen and encourage individual responsibility and independence for families. By managing and funding its programs, the objectives of the Department are carried out through the 4,200

employees located in 51 offices throughout the state, the 58 county welfare departments, offices and a host of community-based organizations.

Case: A basic unit of organization in CWS/CMS, created for each child in a referral found to be a victim of a substantiated allegation of child abuse or neglect. When allegations are substantiated, the referral is promoted to a case. Several children and adults can be linked together through related cases. A new case can be created without a referral such as when there is a probation placement case or a Kin-GAP case. Both of these cases are open to Revenue Enhancement for payment purposes only.

Caretaker Absence/Incapacity: This refers to situations when the child's parent has been incarcerated, hospitalized or institutionalized and cannot arrange for the care of the child; parent's whereabouts are unknown or the custodian with whom the child has been left is unable or unwilling to provide care and support for the child, or when the child's parent or guardian is unable to provide adequate care for the child due to the parent or guardian's mental illness, developmental disability or substance abuse.

Child Welfare Services/Case Management System (CWS/CMS): California's statewide-automated information system composed of multiple software applications that provide comprehensive case management functions.

**Department of Children and Family Services** (DCFS): The County of Los Angeles child protective services agency.

**Emancipation:** It means being free from the custody and control of the person's parents, guardians, the social service agency, and the juvenile court.

**Emergency Response:** A child protective services component that includes immediate in-person response, 24-hours a day and seven days a week, to reports of abuse, neglect, or exploitation, for the purpose of providing initial intake services and crisis intervention to maintain the child safely in his or her home or to protect the safety of the child.

**Emergency Shelter Care:** A temporary placement service, providing 24-hour care for a child who must be immediately removed from his or her own home or current foster placement and who cannot be returned to his or her own home or foster care placement. In the context of funding, emergency

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shelter care shall not exceed 30 calendar days in any one-placement episode.

**Emotional Abuse:** Means non-physical mistreatment, the results of which may be characterized by disturbed behavior on the part of the child such as severe withdrawal, regression, bizarre behavior, hyperactivity or dangerous actingout behavior. Such disturbed behavior is not deemed, in and of itself, to be evidence of emotional abuse.

**Evaluated-Out Referral:** Means an emergency response referral for which the emergency response protocol has been completed by the Child Protection Hotline (CPH) and found to be not in need of an emergency response in-person investigation by a CSW. This terminology includes referrals of abuse, neglect or exploitation over which DCFS has no jurisdiction (e.g., children on military installations).

**Exploitation:** Forcing or coercing a child into performing functions, which are beyond his or her capabilities or capacities, or into illegal or degrading acts. See "sexual exploitation."

**Family Maintenance:** A child protective services component that provides time-limited services to prevent or remedy neglect, abuse, or exploitation, for the purpose of preventing separation of children from their families.

Family Preservation Services: Integral to voluntary services is the utilization of Family Perservation Services for all high-risk families. Family Preservation agencies provide in-home services to assist parents/caregivers in gaining the skills needed to maintain their family intact.

Family Reunification: A child protective services component that provides time-limited foster care services to prevent or remedy neglect, abuse, or exploitation, when the child cannot safely remain at home and needs temporary foster care while services are provided to reunite the family.

**Final Decree of Adoption:** A court order granting the completion of the adoption.

**Foster Family Agency:** It means any public agency or private organization, organized and operated on a nonprofit basis, engaged in any of the following:

(A) Recruiting, certifying, approving, and training of, and providing professional support to, foster parents and resource families.

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- (B) Coordinating with county placing agencies to find homes for foster children in need of care.
- (C) Providing services and supports to licensed or certified foster parents, county-approved resource families, and children to the extent authorized by state and federal law.

Foster Family Agency Certified Home: It refers to an individual or family certified by a licensed foster family agency and issued a certificate of approval by that agency as meeting licensing standards, and used exclusively by that foster family agency for placements.

Foster Family Agency Certified Resource Family: A resource family means an individual or family that has successfully met both the home environment assessment and the permanency assessment criteria necessary for providing care for a child placed by a public or private child placement agency by court order or voluntarily placed by a parent or legal guardian. A foster family agency certified resource family refers to such a family certified by a licensed foster family agency and issued a certificate of approval by that agency as meeting licensing standards, and used by that foster family agency for placements.

Foster Family Home (Resource Family Home): Any home in which 24-hour non-medical care and supervision are provided in a family setting in the licensee's family residence for not more than six foster children inclusive of the member's family.

**General Neglect:** The failure to provide adequate food, shelter, clothing, and/or medical care or supervision when no physical injury to the child occurs.

**Group Home:** A facility that provides 24-hour non-medical care and supervision to children, provides services to a specific client group and maintains a structured environment, with such services provided at least in part by staff employed by the licensee.

**Kinship Care:** Care of a child by a relative/ can include a relative who is licensed as a foster parent and can lead to the relative becoming the adopting parent when parental rights are terminated. In the context of out-of-home placement with a relative, care provided by that relative.

Kinship Guardianship Assistance (KIN-GAP): The intent of the Kin-GAP program is to establish





a program of financial assistance for relative caregivers who have legal guardianship of a child while Dependency Court jurisdiction and the DCFS case are terminated. The rate for the Kin-GAP program will be applied uniformly statewide.

**Legal Guardian:** A person, who is not related to a minor, empowered by a court to be the guardian of a minor.

Long-term Foster Care (LTFC) [AKA Planned Permanent Living Arrangement (PPLA)]: A juvenile court plan that places the child in the home of a foster caregiver until the child turns 18. The rights and responsibilities of the birth parents do not end, but the care, custody and control of the child remain with the juvenile court.

**Neglect:** Means the negligent treatment or maltreatment of a child by acts or omissions by a person responsible for the child's welfare under circumstances indicating harm or threatened harm to the child's health or welfare, including physical and/ or psychological endangerment. The term includes both severe and general neglect.

**Non-minor dependent:** According to AB 12, it means youth who are receiving extended foster care benefits.

Non-relative Extended Family Member (NREFM): Any adult caregiver who has established a familial or mentoring relationship with the child. The parties may include relatives of the child, teachers, medical professionals, clergy, neighbors and family friends.

**Out-of-Home Care:** The 24-hour care provided to children whose own families [parent(s)/guardian(s)] are unable or unwilling to care for them and who are in need of temporary or long-term substitute parenting. Out-of-home care providers include relative caregivers, Resource Family Homes, Small Family Homes, Group Homes, family homes certified by a Foster Family Agency and family homes with DCFS Certified License Pending.

**Out-of-Home Care Provider:** The individual providing temporary or long-term substitute parenting on a 24-hour basis to a child in out-of-home care, including relatives.

**Permanency Planning:** The services provided to achieve legal permanence for a child when efforts to reunify have failed until the court terminates Family Reunification. These services include identifying

permanency alternatives, e.g., adoption, legal guardianship and long-term foster care. Depending on the identified plan, the following activities may be provided: inform parents about adoptive planning and relinquishment; locate potential relative caregivers and provide them with information about permanent plans (e.g., adoption, legal guardianship); and refer the caregiver to the Adoptions Division for an adoptive home study, etc.

**Permanent Placement:** A child protective services component that provides an alternate, permanent family structure for children who, because of abuse, neglect, or exploitation, cannot safely remain at home and who are unlikely to be reunified with their parent(s) or primary caretaker(s).

**Physical Abuse:** Means non-accidental bodily injury that has been or is being inflicted on a child. It includes, but not limited to, those forms of abuse defined by Penal Code § 11165.3 and .4 as "willful cruelty or unjustifiable punishment of a child" and "corporal punishment or injury."

**Placement:** The removal of a child from the physical custody of his/her parent or guardian, followed by the placement in out-of-home care.

**Placement Episode:** The continuous period in which a child remains in out-of-home care. A child placed and replaced in foster care homes several times before being returned to his/her parent or guardian has experienced home "placement episode."

Recurrent of Maltreatment: The denominator is the number of children with at least one substantiated maltreatment allegation during the 12-month period (from April to March). The numerator is the number of children in the denominator that had another substantiated maltreatment allegation within 12 months of their initial report. Performance for this measure is the numerator divided by the denominator, expressed as a percentage.

Reentry to Foster Care: The denominator is the number of children who entered foster care in the 12-month period (from April to March) and discharged within 12 months to reunification, living with a relative(s), or guardianship. The numerator is the number of children in the denominator who reentered foster care within 12 months of their discharge from foster care. Performance for this measure is the numerator divided by the denominator, expressed as a percentage.

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**Relative:** A person connected to another by blood or marriage. It includes parent, stepparent, son, daughter, brother, sister, stepbrother, stepsister, half-brother, half-sister, uncle, aunt, niece, nephew, first cousin or any such person denoted by the prefix "grand" or "great" or the spouse of any of the persons specified in this definition, even after the marriage has been terminated by death or dissolution.

Resource Family: Families/caregivers that have been dually prepared and licensed for both foster or temporary care and adoption. These families are prepared to work reunification with birth parents and to provide a permanent adoptive home if reunification fails. Once a plan for legal guardianship has been approved in accordance with DCFS Policy, these caregivers are also considered resource families. Resource Families have an approved adoption home study on file as well as being licensed as foster care providers.

**Self-Sufficiency:** Is defined as being able to meet one's basic needs for food, shelter, income, and overall functioning. It is complementary to the goal of permanency, as individuals typically function better when they are surrounded by loving and caring adults. However, if one's safety net were to be removed, self-sufficient adults would still be able to survive. In order for youth to become thriving, selfsufficient adults, they need to acquire solid assets and skills, early on, in key areas and outcome areas, such as, permanency/housing; education; social and emotional well-being; career/workforce readiness; health and medication. These four outcome areas lay the foundation for a successful transition into adulthood. To develop properly, they must be addressed and nurtured early on, at the first point of contact. Having continuous high expectations for success in these four areas is critical if youth are to have the support they need to achieve selfsufficiency.

Severe Neglect: The negligent failure of a person having the care or custody of a child to protect the child from severe malnutrition or medically diagnosed non-organic failure to thrive. Severe neglect also means those situations of neglect where any person having the care or custody of a child willfully causes or permits the person or health of the child to be placed in a situation such that his or her person or health is endangered as prescribed by WIC § 11165.3, including the intentional failure to provide adequate food, clothing, shelter or medical care. Child abandonment would come under this section.

**Sexual Abuse:** Means the victimization of a child by sexual activities, including, but not limited to, those activities defined in Penal Code § 11165.1(a)(b)(c). See "sexual assault" and "sexual exploitation."

**Sexual Assault:** Conduct in violation of one or more of the following sections: §§ 261 (rape), 264.1 (rape in concert), 285 (incest), 286 (sodomy), subdivisions (a) and (b) of §§ 288 (lewd or lascivious acts upon a child under 14 years of age), 288a (oral copulation), 289 (penetration of a genital or anal opening by a foreign object), or 647a (child molestation).

**Sexual Exploitation:** Conduct involving matter depicting a minor engaged in obscene acts in violation of Penal Code § 311.2 (preparing, selling, or distributing obscene matter) or subdivision (a) of § 311.4 (employment of minor to perform obscene acts).

Any person who knowingly promotes, aids or assists, employs, uses, persuades, induces or coerces a child, or any person responsible for a child's welfare who knowingly permits or encourages a child to engage in, or assist others to engage in, prostitution or a live performance involving obscene sexual conduct or to either pose or model alone or with others for the purpose of preparing a film, photograph, negative, slide, drawing, painting or other pictorial depiction involving obscene sexual conduct. "Person responsible for a child's welfare" means a parent, guardian, foster parent, or a licensed administrator, or employee of a public or private residential home, residential school, or other residential institution.

Any person who depicts a child in, or who knowingly develops, duplicates, prints, or exchanges, any film, photograph, video tape, negative, or slide in which a child is engaged in an act of obscene, sexual conduct, except for those activities by law enforcement and prosecution agencies and other persons described in subdivisions (c) and (e) of § 311.3."

Short-Term Residential Therapeutic Program (STRTP): Under Continuum of Care Reform, STRTPs were established in place of group home care and provide more intensive care and supervision, core services and supports, treatment, and short-term 24-hour care and supervision of children/youth/non-minor dependents than previously required in group home settings. STRTPs are intended to serve children/youth/non-minor dependents who are in need of a level of care and supervision that cannot be met in a family-like setting and who are not in



need of inpatient services, such as a psychiatric hospital or Community Treatment Facility.

**Small Family Home:** Any residential facility in the licensee's family residence providing 24-hour a day care for six or fewer children who are mentally

disordered, developmentally disabled or physically handicapped and who require special care and supervision as a result of such disabilities.

**Structured Decision Making (SDM) Safety Assessment:** Assesses the child's present danger and the interventions currently needed to protect the child. Assesses whether any children are likely to be in immediate danger of serious harm/maltreatment and determines what interventions should be initiated or maintained to provide appropriate protection.

**Substantial Risk:** Is based upon WIC § 300 (a), (b), (c), (d), and (j). It is applicable to situations in which no clear, current allegations exist for the child, but the child appears to need preventative services based upon the family's history and the level of risk to the child. This allegation is used when a child is likely to be a victim of abuse, but no direct reports of specific abuse exist. The child may be at risk for physical, emotional, sexual abuse or neglect, general or severe.

**Substantiated:** An allegation is substantiated, i.e., founded, if it is determined, based upon credible evidence, to constitute child abuse, neglect or exploitation as defined by Penal Code § 11165. 6.

Supervised Independent Living Placement: A supervised and approved placement that is part of the Extended Foster Care program. SILP is a flexible and the least restrictive placement setting. It can include: an apartment (alone or with roommates); shared living situations; room and board arrangements; room rented from a landlord, friend or relative, or former caregiver; or college dorms.

**Supportive transition:** It is extended foster care services provided to AB 12 non-minor dependents.

**IV-E:** The section of the Social Security Act that provides for foster care maintenance payments for children placed in out-of-home care resulting from judicial determination or pursuant to voluntary agreement entered into by the child(ren)'s parent(s) or legal guardian(s) with a placement agency. The title of the Social Security Act that authorizes grants to states for child welfare services, foster care

payments and adoption assistance.

Title IV-E Waiver: The Title IV-E Waiver Capped Allocation Demonstration Project (CADP) five-year plan is also known as the "Title IV-E Waiver" or "the Waiver." The Waiver will allow DCFS and the Probation Department to test the effect of innovative flexible funding strategies to accelerate efforts to improve outcomes for children and families in Los Angeles County. These efforts will build upon system improvements already underway in DCFS, Probation, and their community partners.

**Transition Aged Youth:** Youth aged 16-21.

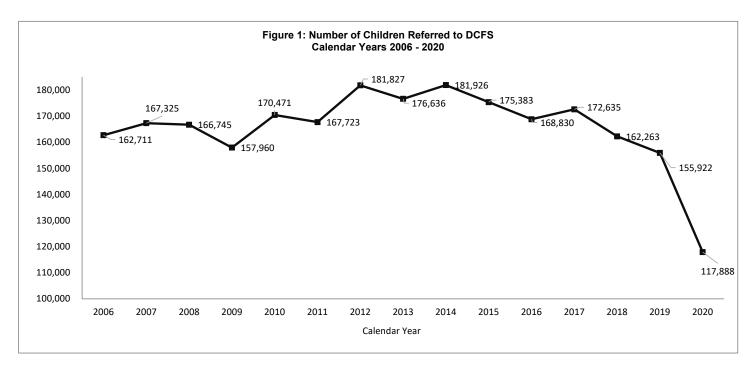
**Unfounded:** An allegation is unfounded if it is determined to be false, inherently improbable, involved accidental injury or does not meet the definition of child abuse.

**Unsubstantiated (inconclusive):** An allegation is unsubstantiated if it can neither be proved nor disproved.







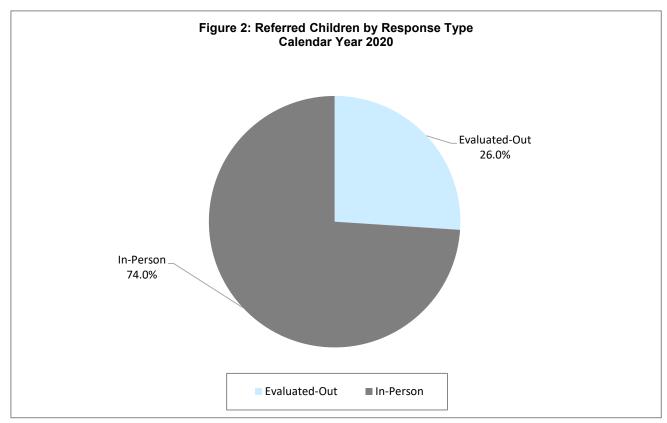


#### Notes:

1. Beginning with CY 2014, data on children referred to DCFS are from CWS/CMS Datamart, an up-to-date DCFS database which offers a more

complete and definitive number of children referred to DCFS. Please note that the total number of referred childen is higher than the number reported in the DCFS Fact Sheet.

2. Data for CY 2020 are as of 1/6/2021.



Source: CWS/CMS Datamart - Data as of 1/6/2021





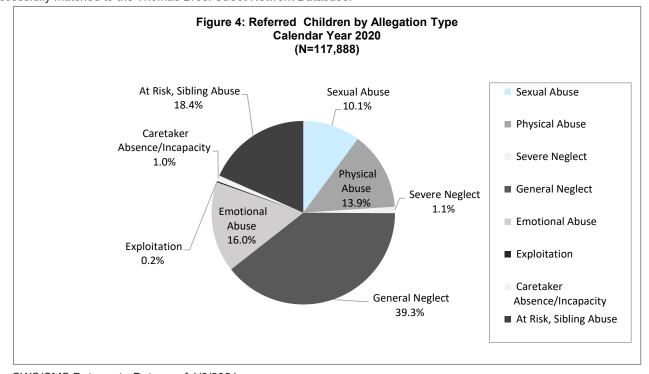


# Figure 3 REFERRED CHILDREN BY SERVICE PLANNING AREA CALENDAR YEAR 2020

SERVICE PLANNING AREA (SPA)	EVALUATED OUT	IN-PERSON RESPONSE	TOTAL REFERRAL CHILDREN RECEIVED
SPA 1	1,945	7,377	9,322
SPA 2	5,068	14,504	19,572
SPA 3	3,865	11,218	15,083
SPA 4	2,576	7,204	9,780
SPA 5	721	1,728	2,449
SPA 6	4,901	16,045	20,946
SPA 7	3,253	10,602	13,855
SPA 8	3,756	12,217	15,973
Out of LA County	1,063	851	1,914
Invalid Address	3,545	5,449	8,994
TOTAL	30,693	87,195	117,888

Source: CWS/CMS Datamart - Data as of 1/6/2021

- 1. Beginning with CY 2014, data on children referred to DCFS are from CWS/CMS Datamart, an up-to-date DCFS database which offers a more complete and definitive number of children referred to DCFS, and that the total number of referred childen is higher than the number reported in the DCFS annual fact sheet.
- 2. SPA information is based on address of origin for referrals received by DCFS.
- 3. Invalid Address reflects addresses with erronous, incomplete, unknown, P.O. Box, or empty address fields that could not be successfully matched to the Thomas Bros. Street Network Database.



Source: CWS/CMS Datamart - Data as of 1/6/2021

"Notes:

1. Beginning with CY 2014, data on children referred to DCFS are from CWS/CMS Datamart, an up-to-date DCFS database which offers a more complete and definitive number of children referred to DCFS, and that the total number of referred childen is higher than the number reported in the DCFS annual fact sheet.

2. Percentages may not add up to 100 percent due to rounding."

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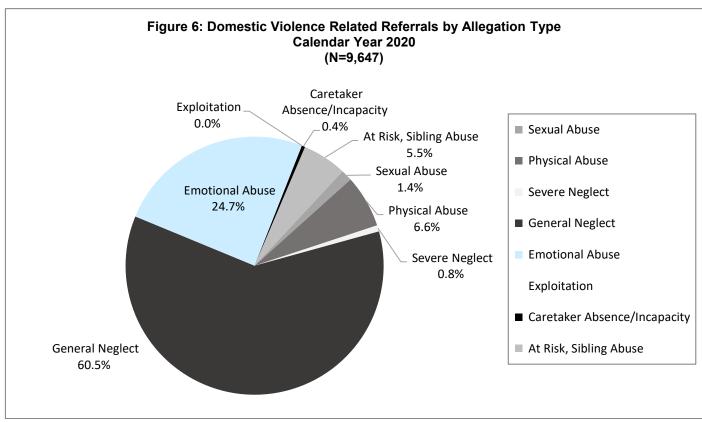


Figure 5 REFERRED CHILDREN BY AGE AND RACE/ETHNICITY										
CALENDAR YEAR 2020										
<b>-</b> 0	Age Group									
Ethnicity	Birth-2 Yrs	3 - 4 Yrs	5 - 9 Yrs	10 - 13 Yrs	14 - 15 Yrs	16 - 17 Yrs	18+ Yrs	Total		
White	2,538	1,466	3,962	3,645	2,035	1,874	10	15,530		
Hispanic/Latino	8,656	5,932	16,485	14,719	7,504	6,750	30	60,076		
African American	3,990	2,133	5,651	4,170	2,217	2,035	10	20,206		
Asian/Pacific Islander	444	295	958	863	478	457	3	3,498		
American Indian/Alaskan Native	24	23	40	42	20	19		168		
Other	4,100	2,206	5,002	3,708	1,789	1,595	10	18,410		
GRAND TOTAL	19,752	12,055	32,098	27,147	14,043	12,730	63	117,888		

Source: CWS/CMS Datamart - Data as of 1/9/2021

#### Note:

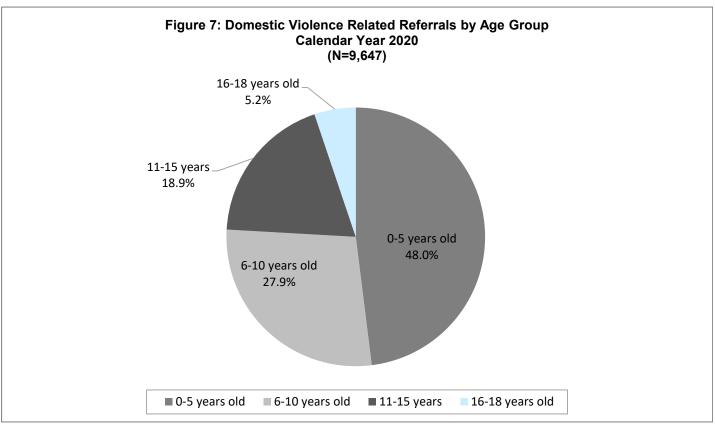
2. Percentages may not add up to 100 percent due to rounding.



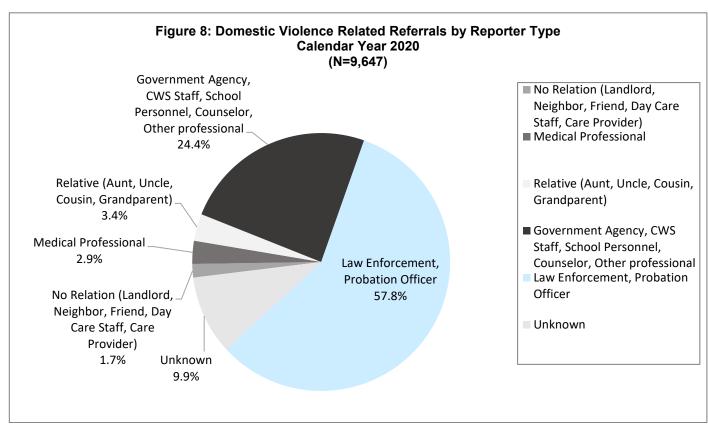
Sources: SDM database and CWS/CMS Datamart - Data as of10/21/2021

<sup>1.</sup> Beginning with CY 2014, data on children referred to DCFS are from CWS/CMS Datamart, an up-to-date DCFS database which offers a more complete and definitive number of children referred to DCFS. Please note that the total number of referred childen is higher than the number reported in the DCFS CY 2014 Fact Sheet.





Sources: SDM database and CWS/CMS Datamart - Data as of 10/21/2021



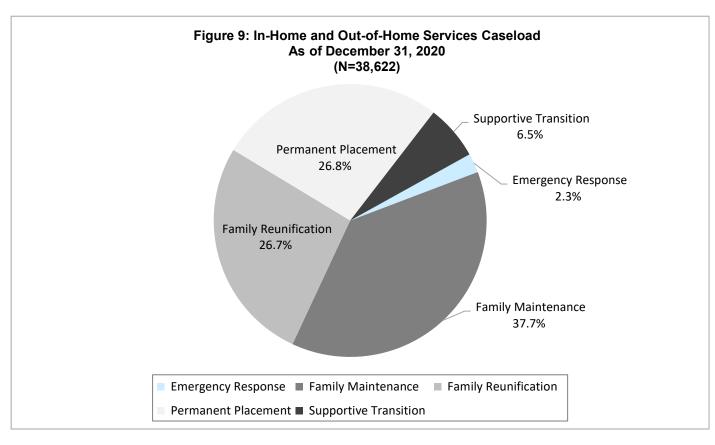
Source: CWS/CMS Datamart - Data as of 1/9/2019

Note: Percentages may not add up to 100 percent due to rounding.

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Source: CWS/CMS Datamart - Data as of 1/6/2021

Note: Percentages may not add up to 100 percent due to rounding.







Figure 10

# IN-HOME AND OUT-OF-HOME SERVICES CASELOAD BY SERVICE PLANNING AREA LOS ANGELES COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN AND FAMILY SERVICES AS OF DECEMBER 31, 2020

TOTAL	Invalid Address	Out-of-LA County	00	7	6	O	4	ယ	2		SPA	
16,856	589	536	2,041	2,059	3,574	250	1,699	1,770	2,500	1,838	In- Home	
231		40	27	20	39	_	15	20	20	49	Relative/ Foster NREFM Family Home Home	
276		26	48	17	52		4	37	17	75	Foster Family Home	
606		96	88	83	67		53	64	82	73	Foster Family Agency Certified Home	
3,328		1,030	270	384	253	28	99	342	334	588	Foster Family Agency Certified Resource Family Home	
23		13		_	_		_	7			Small Family Home	Out-o
50		_	16		1	15		7			Group Home	Out-of-Home Care
1,557	2	485	154	128	223	28	99	162	131	145	Supervised Independent Living Placement	Care
2,643		236	371	230	571	23	57	211	214	730	Resource Family Home Non- Relative	
9,318		1,543	1,210	1,096	1,599	105	509	1,052	1,123	1,081	Resource Family Home Relative	
549		85	48	6	91	21	21	226	26	25	Short Term Residential Therapeutic Program	
218	->-	179	6	ω	13			1	ω	2	Other	
18,799	ω	3,734	2,238	1,968	2,920	221	858	2,139	1,950	2,768	Out-of- Home Care Total	
105		19	9	15	6	_	1	23	21		Non Foster Care	
1,629	1	395	204	182	203	7	87	162	175	203	Adoptive Home	
1,233		87	240	129	308	10	34	134	112	179	Adoptive Guardian Home Home	
38,622	603	4,771	4,732	4,353	7,011	489	2,689	4,228	4,758	4,988	In-Home and Out- of-Home Placement Total	

Source: CWS/CMS Datamart - Data as of 1/9/2019

- (1) SPA information is based on child's placement address.(2) NREFM Non-Relative Extended Family Member(3) Invalid Address reflects addresses with errornous, incomplete, unknown, P.O. Box, or empty address fields that could not be successfully matched to the Thomas Bros. Street Network Database.

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# IN-HOME AND OUT-OF-HOME SERVICES CASELOAD CHILD CHARACTERISTICS AS OF DECEMBER 31, 2020

	AIRAGI EIRIGI IOG AG GI	
AGE GROUP	CHILDREN	PERCENTAGE
Birth - 2 Years	7,318	18.9
3 - 4 Years	4,917	12.7
5 - 9 Years	10,166	26.3
10 - 13 Years	6,698	17.3
14 - 15 Years	3,190	8.3
16 - 17 Years	3,075	8.0
18 Years & Older	3,258	8.4
TOTAL	38,622	100.0
ETHNICITY		
White	4,601	11.9
Hispanic	22,452	58.1
African-American	9,030	23.4
Asian/Pacific Islander	670	1.7
American Indian/Alaskan Native	104	0.3
Other	1,765	4.6
TOTAL	38,622	100.0
GENDER		
Male	19,223	49.8
Female	19,390	50.2
Unknown	9	0.0
TOTAL	38,622	100.0

NOTE: Percentages may not add up to 100 percent due to rounding.







Figure 12 LOS ANGELES COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN AND FAMILY SERVICES AS OF DECEMBER 31, 2020

(NON FOSTER CARE, ADOPTIVE HOME, AND GUARDIAN HOME PLACEMENTS EXCLUDED) CHILDREN IN OUT-OF-HOME PLACEMENT BY SERVICE PLANNING AREA

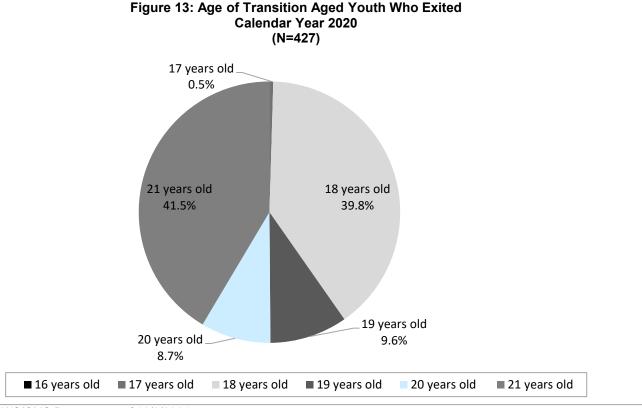
> = 0 0 % % % % % % % %

Source: CWS/CMS Datamart - Data as of 1/9/2019 Notes:

SPA information is based on child's placement address.
 NREFM - Non-Relative Extended Family Member
 Invalid Address reflects addresses with errornous, incomplete, unknown, P.O. Box, or empty address fields that could not be successfully matched to the Thomas Bros. Street Network Database.

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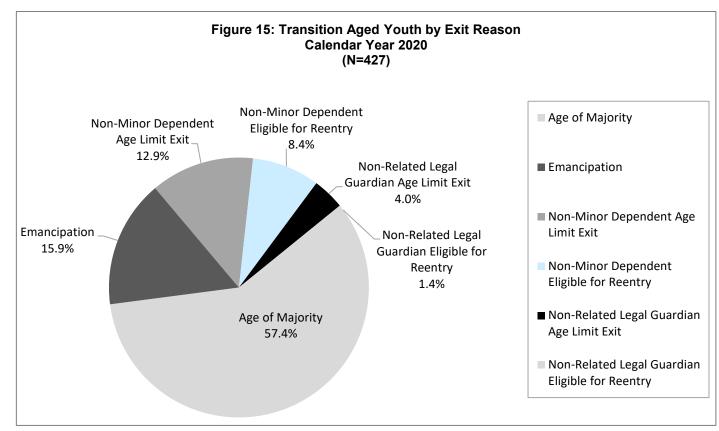
Source: CWS/CMS Datamart as of 10/3/2021 Notes: Transition Aged Youth is defined as:

- 1. The child's Exit Date is between January 1, 2020 and December 31, 2020.
- 2. The child's age at the time of exit is greater than or equal to 16.

#### LOS ANGELES COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN AND FAMILY SERVICES CHILDREN TRANSITION AGED YOUTH BY FACILITY TYPE **CALENDAR YEAR 2020 FACILITY TYPE NUMBER PERCENTAGE Supervised Independent Living Placement** 125 29.3 **FFA Certified Home** 88 20.6 **Guardian Home** 52 12.2 **Relative Home** 52 12.2 **Short Term Residential Therapeutic Prgm** 38 8.9 **Group Home** 24 5.6 **Resource Family Home** 19 4.4 **Foster Family Home** 13 3.0 **Court Specified Home** 11 2.6 Foster Fam Agency Cert Resource Fam Home 4 0.9 0.2 **Small Family Home** 1 **TOTAL** 427 100.0

Source: CWS/CMS Datamart as of 10/3/2021





Source: CWS/CMS Datamart as of 10/3/2021



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### ADOPTIONS PERMANENCY PLANNING CASELOAD CHILDREN PLACED IN ADOPTIVE HOMES DURING THE YEAR **CALENDAR YEARS 1986 THROUGH 2020**

	ALENDAR TEARS 1900 THROUGH 2020
CALENDAR YEAR	CHILDREN
1986	617
1987	541
1988	698
1989	696
1990	824
1991	1,000
1992	985
1993	1,049
1994	1,027
1995	1,035
1996	1,087
1997	1,346
1998	1,728
1999	2,532
2000	2,992
2001	2,871
2002	2,135
2003	1,842
2004	2,271
2005	2,273
2006	2,230
2007	2,240
2008	2,228
2009	2,148
2010	1,397
2011	1,540
2012	1,500
2013	1,336
2014	1,530
2015	1,535
2016	1,691
2017	1,776
2018	1,839
2019	2,331
2020	1,414

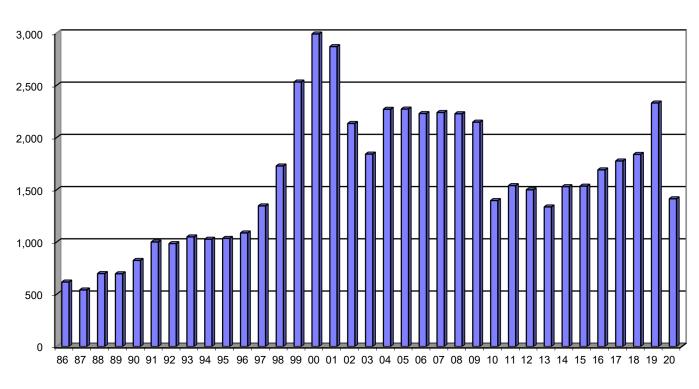


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Figure 17: CHILDREN PLACED IN ADOPTIVE HOMES Calendar Years 1986 Through 2020



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Figure 18		
CHILDREN	EFERRED FOR 241.1 JOINT ASSESSMENT HEARINGS CY 2020	

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Figure 18 CHILDREN REFERRED FOR 241.1 JOINT ASSESSMENT HEARINGS CY 2020				
REFERRALS FOR 241.1 JOINT ASSESSMENTS RECEIVED	Children			
Referrals Categorized by Court of Origin				
Dependency Court	19			
Delinquency Court	646			
Referrals Categorized by Type	l .			
Reversal (Returns from 600 to 300)	0			
Reversal (New 300 After 602)	0			
All Other 241.1 ReferralsNot Reversals from Delinquency	0			
Inappropriate 241.1 Referrals Evaluated Out	0			
DELINQUENCY COURT 241.1 HEARING DISPOSITIONS				
Dispositions Categorized By Type				
602 Disposition (Wards of Court)	12			
Reversal/New 300 Requested and DeniedChild remains a 602	0			
725A (Joint Supervision)	14			
654 (Joint Supervision)	16			
790 DEJ (Joint Supervision)	5			
300/602 WIC (SP)	24			
300/602 WIC (HOP)	9			
300/602 WIC (CCP)	3			
Other	2			
Dismissal	11			
Termination (Both Dependency and Delinquency)	0			
Termination (By Delinquency) Open Dep Jurisdiction	0			
Deling Court Jurisdiction Termed	0			
Delinq Court Jurisdiction Termed Due to Reversal from 600 to 300	0			
Reversal/New 300 Requested and DeniedJurisdiction Termed without a 300 Pet	0			
Delinq Court Dismissal of Pet.	0			
Transfer: MDT Program/Out of County	0			
601 (Truancy)	0			
TOTAL NUMBER OF DISPOSITION	96			
DEPENDENCY COURT 241.1 HEARING DISPOSITIONS	T			
Dispositions Categorized By Type				
Dependency Court Petition Dismissal (child remaining a 602)	0			
Dependency Court J/T before Delinq. Court Petition Dispo	0			
Dependency Court Jurisdiction Termed (due to child remaining a 602)	0			
Child Remains a 300/No Delinquency Court Jurisdiction	0			
Child Remains a 300 Under Joint Supervision	0			
New 300/Joint Supervision	0			
725(a) WIC	0			
602 WIC	0			
300/602 WIC	1			
Delinq Court Jurisdiction Termed/NEW 300	0			
Dismissal	0			
Other	0			
TOTAL NUMBER OF DISPOSITIONS	0			
TOTAL NUMBER OF DELINQUENCY AND DEPENDENCY COURT HEARING DISPOSITIONS	0			
DISPOSITIONS BY PERCENTAGE				
Total number of 602s as a percent of total number of cases disposed	13%			
Total number of cases under joint supervision as a percent of total number of cases disposed	36%			
Total number of all other cases as a percent of total number of cases disposed	51%			



		SPA ZIP LIST	
SERVICE PLANNING AREA	DCFS OFFICE	ZIP CODE	CITY/COMMUNITY
SPA 1	Lancaster	93243	Lebec
SPA 1	Lancaster	93523	Edwards AFB
SPA 1	Lancaster	93532	Elizabeth Lake/Lake Hughes
SPA 1	Lancaster	93534	Lancaster
SPA 1	Lancaster	93535	Hi Vista
SPA 1	Lancaster	93536	Lancaster/Quartz Hill
SPA 1	Palmdale	93510	Acton
SPA 1	Palmdale	93543	Littlerock/Juniper Hills
SPA 1	Palmdale	93544	Llano
SPA 1	Palmdale	93550	Palmdale/Lake Los Angeles
SPA 1	Palmdale	93551	Palmdale
SPA 1	Palmdale	93552	Palmdale
SPA 1	Palmdale	93553	Pearblossom
SPA 1	Palmdale	93563	Valyermo
SPA 1	Palmdale	93591	Palmdale/Lake Los Angeles
SPA 2	San Fernando Valley	91040	Sunland (City of LA)/Shadow Hills (City of LA)
SPA 2	San Fernando Valley	91042	Tujunga (City of LA)
SPA 2	San Fernando Valley	91331	Arleta (City of LA)/Pacoima (City of LA)
SPA 2	San Fernando Valley	91352	Sun Valley (City of LA)
SPA 2	San Fernando Valley	91401	Van Nuys (City of LA)
SPA 2	San Fernando Valley San Fernando Valley	91402 91403	Panorama City (City of LA)  Sherman Oaks (City of LA)/Van Nuys (City of LA)
SPA 2	San Fernando Valley	91405	Van Nuys (City of LA)
SPA 2	San Fernando Valley	91411	Van Nuys (City of LA)
SPA 2	San Fernando Valley	91423	Sherman Oaks (City of LA)/Van Nuys (City of LA)
SPA 2	San Fernando Valley	91601	North Hollywood (City of LA)
SPA 2	San Fernando Valley	91602	North Hollywood (City of LA)/Toluca Lake (City of LA)
SPA 2	San Fernando Valley	91604	North Hollywood (City of LA)/Studio City (City of LA)
SPA 2	San Fernando Valley	91605	North Hollywood
SPA 2	San Fernando Valley	91606	North Hollywood
SPA 2	San Fernando Valley	91607	North Hollywood (City of LA)/Valley Village (City of LA)
SPA 2	San Fernando Valley	91608	Universal City
SPA 2	Santa Clarita	91321	Santa Clarita (Newhall)
SPA 2	Santa Clarita	91340	San Fernando
SPA 2	Santa Clarita	91342	Lake View Terrace (City of LA)/Sylmar (City of LA)
SPA 2	Santa Clarita	91343	North Hills (City of LA)
SPA 2	Santa Clarita	91344	Granada Hills (City of LA)
SPA 2	Santa Clarita	91345	Mission Hills (City of LA)
SPA 2	Santa Clarita	91350	Agua Dulce/Saugus
SPA 2	Santa Clarita	91351	Santa Clarita (Canyon Country)
SPA 2	Santa Clarita	91354	Santa Clarita (Valencia)
SPA 2	Santa Clarita	91355	Santa Clarita (Valencia)

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SPA 2



91381

Santa Clarita

Stevenson Ranch





SPA 2	Santa Clarita	91382	Santa Clarita
SPA 2	Santa Clarita	91384	Castaic
SPA 2	Santa Clarita	91387	Canyon Country
SPA 2	Santa Clarita	91390	Santa Clarita
SPA 2	West San Fernando Valley	90290	Topanga
SPA 2	West San Fernando Valley	91301	Agoura/Oak Park
SPA 2	West San Fernando Valley	91302	Calabasas/Hidden Hills
SPA 2	West San Fernando Valley	91303	Canoga Park (City of LA)
SPA 2	West San Fernando Valley	91304	Canoga Park (City of LA)
SPA 2	West San Fernando Valley	91306	Winnetka (City of LA)
SPA 2	West San Fernando Valley	91307	West Hills (City of LA)
SPA 2	West San Fernando Valley	91311	Chatsworth (City of LA)
SPA 2	West San Fernando Valley	91316	Encino (City of LA)
SPA 2	West San Fernando Valley	91324	Northridge (City of LA)
SPA 2	West San Fernando Valley	91325	Northridge (City of LA)
SPA 2	West San Fernando Valley	91326	Porter Ranch (City of LA)
SPA 2	West San Fernando Valley	91330	Northridge (City of LA), California State University
SPA 2	West San Fernando Valley	91335	Reseda (City of LA)
SPA 2	West San Fernando Valley	91356	Tarzana (City of LA)
SPA 2	West San Fernando Valley	91361	Westlake Village
SPA 2	West San Fernando Valley	91362	Westlake Village
SPA 2	West San Fernando Valley	91364	Woodland Hills (City of LA)
SPA 2	West San Fernando Valley	91367	Woodland Hills (City of LA)
SPA 2	West San Fernando Valley	91406	Van Nuys (City of LA)
SPA 2	West San Fernando Valley	91436	Encino (City of LA)
SPA 3	El Monte	91731	EI Monte
SPA 3	El Monte	91732	El Monte
SPA 3	El Monte	91733	South El Monte
SPA 3	El Monte	91745	La Puente (Hacienda Heights)
SPA 3	Glendora	91702	Azusa
SPA 3	Glendora	91706	Baldwin Park/Irwindale
SPA 3	Glendora	91722	Covina
SPA 3	Glendora	91723	Covina
SPA 3	Glendora	91724	Covina
SPA 3	Glendora	91740	Glendora
SPA 3	Glendora	91741	Glendora
SPA 3	Glendora	91744	Cityof Industry/La Puente/Valinda
SPA 3	Glendora	91746	Bassett/City of Industry/La Puente
SPA 3	Glendora	91748	Rowland Heights
SPA 3	Glendora	91789	Diamond Bar/City of Industry/Walnut
SPA 3	Glendora	91790	West Covina
SPA 3	Glendora	91791	West Covina
SPA 3	Glendora	91792	West Covina
SPA 3	Pasadena	90032	El Sereno (City of LA)/Monterey Hills (City of LA)
SPA 3	Pasadena	90041	Eagle Rock (City of LA)
SPA 3	Pasadena	90042	Highland Park (City of LA)
SPA 3	Pasadena	90065	Cypress Park (City of LA)/Glassell Park (City of LA)
SPA 3	Pasadena	91001	Altadena



SPA 3	Pasadena	91006	Arcadia
SPA 3	Pasadena	91007	Arcadia
SPA 3	Pasadena	91010	Bradbury
SPA 3	Pasadena	91011	La Canada-Flintridge
SPA 3	Pasadena	91016	Monrovia
SPA 3	Pasadena	91020	Montrose
SPA 3	Pasadena	91023	Mount Wilson
SPA 3	Pasadena	91024	Sierra Madre
SPA 3	Pasadena	91030	South Pasadena
SPA 3	Pasadena	91046	Glendale (Verdugo City)
SPA 3	Pasadena	91101	Pasadena
SPA 3	Pasadena	91103	Pasadena
SPA 3	Pasadena	91104	Pasadena
SPA 3	Pasadena	91105	Pasadena
SPA 3	Pasadena	91106	Pasadena
SPA 3	Pasadena	91107	Pasadena
SPA 3	Pasadena	91108	San Marino
SPA 3	Pasadena	91125	Pasadena (California Institute of Technology)
SPA 3	Pasadena	91126	Pasadena (California Institute of Technology)
SPA 3	Pasadena	91201	Glendale
SPA 3	Pasadena	91202	Glendale
SPA 3	Pasadena	91203	Glendale
SPA 3	Pasadena	91204	Glendale (Tropico)
SPA 3	Pasadena	91205	Glendale (Tropico)
SPA 3	Pasadena	91206	Glendale
SPA 3	Pasadena	91207	Glendale
SPA 3	Pasadena	91208	Glendale
SPA 3	Pasadena	91210	Galleria (Glendale)
SPA 3	Pasadena	91214	La Crescenta
SPA 3	Pasadena	91501	Burbank
SPA 3	Pasadena	91502	Burbank
SPA 3	Pasadena	91504	Burbank (Glenoaks)
SPA 3	Pasadena	91505	Burbank
SPA 3	Pasadena	91506	Burbank
SPA 3	Pasadena	91521	Burbank
SPA 3	Pasadena	91522	Burbank
SPA 3	Pasadena	91523	Burbank
SPA 3	Pasadena	91754	Monterey Park
SPA 3	Pasadena	91755	Monterey Park
SPA 3	Pasadena	91770	Rosemead
SPA 3	Pasadena	91775	San Gabriel
SPA 3	Pasadena	91776	San Gabriel
SPA 3	Pasadena	91780	Temple City
SPA 3	Pasadena	91801	Alhambra
SPA 3	Pasadena	91803	Alhambra
SPA 3	Pomona	91711	Claremont
SPA 3	Pomona	91750	La Verne
SPA 3	Pomona	91765	Diamond Bar

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SPA 3	Pomona	91766	Phillips Ranch/Pomoona
SPA 3	Pomona	91767	Pomona
SPA 3	Pomona	91768	Pomona
SPA 3	Pomona	91773	San Dimas
SPA 4	Metro North	90004	Hancock Park (City of LA)
SPA 4	Metro North	90005	Koreatown (City of LA)
SPA 4	Metro North	90006	Pico Heights (City of LA)
SPA 4	Metro North	90010	Wilshire Blvd (City of LA)
SPA 4	Metro North	90012	Civic Center (City of LA)/Chinatown (City of LA)
SPA 4	Metro North	90013	Downtown Los Angeles (City of LA)
SPA 4	Metro North	90014	Los Angeles
SPA 4	Metro North	90015	Downtown Los Angeles (City of LA)
SPA 4	Metro North	90017	Downtown Los Angeles (City of LA)
SPA 4	Metro North	90020	Hancock Park (City of LA)
SPA 4	Metro North	90021	Downtown Los Angeles (City of LA)
SPA 4	Metro North	90026	Echo Park/Silverlake (City of LA)
SPA 4	Metro North	90027	Griffith Park (City of LA)/Los Feliz (City of LA)
SPA 4	Metro North	90028	Hollywood (City of LA)
SPA 4	Metro North	90029	Downtown Los Angeles (City of LA)
SPA 4	Metro North	90031	Montecito Heights (City of LA)
SPA 4	Metro North	90033	Boyle Heights (City of LA)
SPA 4	Metro North	90038	Hollywood (City of LA)
SPA 4	Metro North	90039	Atwater Village (City of LA)
SPA 4	Metro North	90057	Westlake (City of LA)
SPA 4	Metro North	90068	Hollywood (City of LA)
SPA 4	Metro North	90071	ARCO Towers (City of LA)
SPA 5	West LA	90019	Country Club Park (City of LA)/Mid City (City of LA)
SPA 5	West LA	90024	Westwood (City of LA)
SPA 5	West LA	90025	Sawtelle (City of LA)/West Los Angeles (City of LA
SPA 5	West LA	90034	Palms (City of LA)
SPA 5	West LA	90035	West Fairfax (City of LA)
SPA 5	West LA	90036	Park La Brea (City of LA)
SPA 5	West LA	90045	LAX Area (City of LA)/Westchester (City of LA)
SPA 5	West LA	90046	Mount Olympus (City of LA)
SPA 5	West LA	90048	West Beverly (City of LA)
SPA 5	West LA	90049	Bel Air Estates (City of LA)/Brentwood (City of LA)
SPA 5	West LA	90056	Ladera Heights (City of LA)
SPA 5	West LA	90064	Cheviot Hills (City of LA)/Rancho Park (City of LA)
SPA 5	West LA	90066	Mar Vista (City of LA)
SPA 5	West LA	90067	Century City (City of LA)
SPA 5	West LA	90069	West Hollywood
SPA 5	West LA	90073	VA Hospital (Sawtelle)
SPA 5	West LA	90077	Bel Air Estates & Beverly Glen (City of LA)
SPA 5	West LA	90094	Playa Vista
SPA 5	West LA	90095	Los Angeles (UCLA)
SPA 5	West LA	90210	Beverly Hills/Beverly Glen (City of LA)
SPA 5	West LA	90211	Beverly Hills
SPA 5	West LA	90212	Beverly Hills
SPA 5	West LA	90230	Culver City
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SPA 5	West LA	90232	Culver City
SPA 5	West LA	90263	Pepperdine University (Malibu)
SPA 5	West LA	90265	Malibu
SPA 5	West LA	90272	Castellemare (City of LA)/Pacific Highlands (City of LA)
SPA 5	West LA	90291	Venice (City of LA)
SPA 5	West LA	90292	Marina del Rey
SPA 5	West LA	90293	Playa del Rey (City of LA)
SPA 5	West LA	90401	Santa Monica
SPA 5	West LA	90402	Santa Monica
SPA 5	West LA	90403	Santa Monica
SPA 5	West LA	90404	Santa Monica
SPA 5	West LA	90405	Santa Monica
SPA 6	Compton	90059	Watts (City of LA)/Willowbrook
SPA 6	Compton	90061	South Central (City of LA)
SPA 6	Compton	90220	Compton/Rancho Dominguez
SPA 6	Compton	90221	East Rancho Dominguez
SPA 6	Compton	90222	Compton/Rosewood/Willowbrook
SPA 6	Compton	90262	Lynwood
SPA 6	Compton	90723	Paramount
SPA 6	Vermont Corridor	90007	South Central (City of LA)
SPA 6	Vermont Corridor	90008	Baldwin Hills/Crenshaw (City of LA)/Leimert Park (City of LA)
SPA 6	Vermont Corridor	90016	West Adams (City of LA)
SPA 6	Vermont Corridor	90018	Jefferson Park (City of LA)
SPA 6	Vermont Corridor	90043	Hyde Park (City of LA)/View Park/Windsor Hills
SPA 6	Vermont Corridor	90044	Athens
SPA 6	Vermont Corridor	90062	South Central (City of LA)
SPA 6	Vermont Corridor	90089	USC (City of LA)
SPA 6	Wateridge	90001	Florence/South Central (City of LA)
SPA 6	Wateridge	90002	Watts (City of LA)
SPA 6	Wateridge	90003	South Central (City of LA)
SPA 6	Wateridge	90011	South Central (City of LA)
SPA 6	Wateridge	90037	South Central (City of LA)
SPA 6	Wateridge	90047	South Central (City of LA)
SPA 7	Belvedere	90022	East Los Angeles
SPA 7	Belvedere	90023	East Los Angeles (City of LA)
SPA 7	Belvedere	90040	Commerce, City of
SPA 7	Belvedere	90058	Vernon
SPA 7	Belvedere	90063	City Terrace
SPA 7	Belvedere	90201	Bell/Bell Gardens/Cudahy
SPA 7	Belvedere	90255	Huntington Park/Walnut Park
SPA 7	Belvedere	90270	Maywood
SPA 7	Belvedere	90640	Montebello
SPA 7	Belvedere	90660	Pico Rivera
SPA 7	S F Springs	90240	Downey
SPA 7	S F Springs	90241	Downey
SPA 7	S F Springs	90242	Downey
SPA 7	S F Springs	90280	South Gate
SPA 7	S F Springs	90601	Whittier
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SPA 7	S F Springs	90602	Whittier
SPA 7	S F Springs	90603	Whittier
SPA 7	S F Springs	90604	Whittier
SPA 7	S F Springs	90605	Whittier/South Whittier
SPA 7	S F Springs	90606	Los Nietos
SPA 7	S F Springs	90631	La Habra Heights
SPA 7	S F Springs	90638	La Mirada
SPA 7	S F Springs	90639	La Mirada (Biola Univ.)
SPA 7	S F Springs	90650	Norwalk
SPA 7	S F Springs	90670	Santa Fe Springs
SPA 7	S F Springs	90701	Cerritos
SPA 7	S F Springs	90703	Cerritos
SPA 7	S F Springs	90706	Bellflower
SPA 7	S F Springs	90716	Hawaiian Gardens
SPA 8	South County	90704	Avalon
SPA 8	South County	90712	Lakewood
SPA 8	South County	90713	Lakewood
SPA 8	South County	90715	Lakewood
SPA 8	South County	90731	San Pedro (City of LA)/Terminal Island (City of LA)
SPA 8	South County	90732	Rancho Palos Verdes
SPA 8	South County	90744	Wilmington (City of LA)
SPA 8	South County	90745	Carson
SPA 8	South County	90746	Carson
SPA 8	South County	90747	Carson (Cal State Univ. Dominguez Hills)
SPA 8	South County	90755	Signal Hill
SPA 8	South County	90802	Long Beach
SPA 8	South County	90803	Long Beach
SPA 8	South County	90804	Long Beach
SPA 8	South County	90805	North Long Beach (Long Beach)
SPA 8	South County	90806	Long Beach
SPA 8	South County	90807	Long Beach
SPA 8	South County	90808	Long Beach
SPA 8	South County	90810	Carson/Long Beach
SPA 8	South County	90813	Long Beach
SPA 8	South County	90814	Long Beach
SPA 8	South County	90815	Long Beach
SPA 8	South County	90822	Long Beach
SPA 8	South County	90831	Long Beach (World Trade Center)
SPA 8	South County	90840	Long Beach (Cal State University Long Beach)
SPA 8	South County	90846	Long Beach (Boeing)
SPA 8	Torrance	90245	El Segundo
SPA 8	Torrance	90247	Gardena
SPA 8	Torrance	90248	Gardena
SPA 8	Torrance	90249	Gardena
SPA 8	Torrance	90250	Hawthorne (Holly Park)
SPA 8	Torrance	90254	Hermosa Beach
SPA 8	Torrance	90260	Lawndale
SPA 8	Torrance	90261	Lawndale (Federal Bldg)





SPA 8	Torrance	90266	Manhattan Beach
SPA 8	Torrance	90274	Palos Verdes Estates/Rolling Hills/Rolling Hills E
SPA 8	Torrance	90275	Rancho Palos Verdes
SPA 8	Torrance	90277	Redondo Beach/Torrance
SPA 8	Torrance	90278	Redondo Beach/Torrance
SPA 8	Torrance	90301	Inglewood
SPA 8	Torrance	90302	Inglewood
SPA 8	Torrance	90303	Inglewood
SPA 8	Torrance	90304	Lennox
SPA 8	Torrance	90305	Inglewood
SPA 8	Torrance	90501	Torrance
SPA 8	Torrance	90502	Torrance
SPA 8	Torrance	90503	Torrance
SPA 8	Torrance	90504	Torrance
SPA 8	Torrance	90505	Torrance
SPA 8	Torrance	90506	Torrance (Camino College)
SPA 8	Torrance	90710	Harbor City (City of LA)
SPA 8	Torrance	90717	Lomita/Rancho Palos Verdes

**(** 







7,583

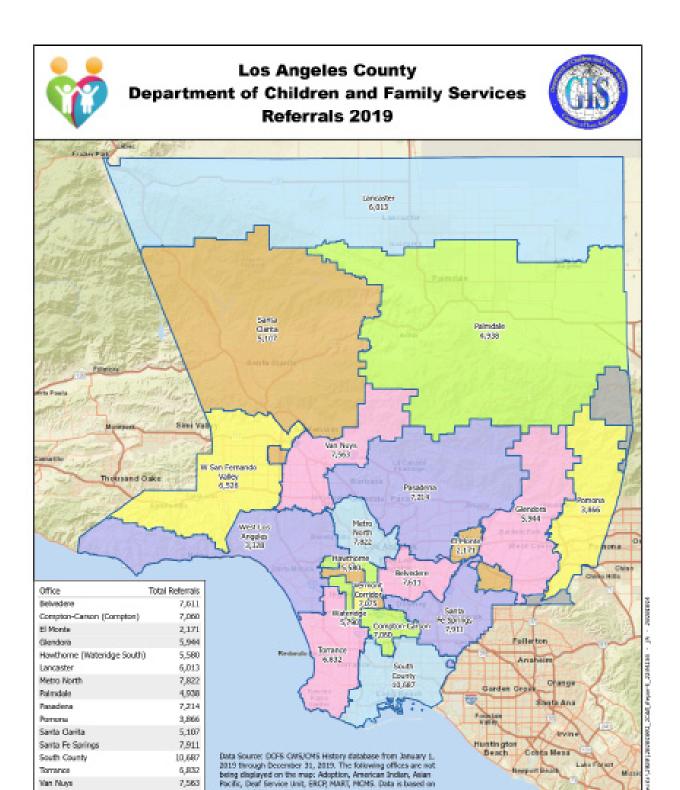
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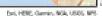
5,790

3,329

6,528











Wan Nuya

Warmont Corridor Wateridge (Wateridge North)

West Los Angeles

West San Fernando Valley

On Dec 1, 2019, The following DCPS field offices changed: Wateridge South became Hawthorne.

Wateridge North becaree Wateridge. Compton becaree Compton-Carson.

# Department of Children and Family Services





















# DEPARTMENT OF MEDICAL EXAMINER-CORONER

## INTRODUCTION

The Department of Medical Examiner-Coroner (ME-C) is mandated by law to "inquire into and determine the circumstances, manner, and cause of all violent, sudden, or unusual deaths; unattended deaths;" and deaths where "the deceased has not been attended by a physician in the 20 days before death." (California Government Code Section 27491)

As of 2013, the Department is headed by a Chief Medical Examiner-Coroner who is responsible for setting standards for the entire department and carrying out statutorily mandated ME-C functions. He is assisted by a Chief Deputy who is responsible for administration and all non-physician operations.

The department is divided into the following Bureaus and Divisions: Forensic Medicine, Forensic Laboratories, Operations, Administrative Services, and Public Services.

# FORENSIC MEDICINE DIVISION

The Forensic Medicine Bureau's full-time permanent staff consists of board-certified forensic pathologists who are responsible for the professional medical investigation and determination of the cause and mode of each death handled by the department. Our physicians are experts in the evaluation of sudden or unexpected natural deaths and unnatural deaths such as deaths from firearms, sharp and blunt force trauma, overdose, etc. Physicians are frequently called to court to testify on cause of death and their medical findings and interpretations, particularly in homicide cases. In addition, the division has consultants in forensic neuropathology, odontology, anthropology, anesthesiology, pediatrics, surgery, ophthalmologic pathology, pulmonary pathology, pediatric forensic pathology, cardiac pathology, emergency room medicine, psychiatry, psychology, and radiology to assist the deputy medical examiners in evaluating their cases.

# FORENSIC SCIENCE LABORATORIES DIVISION

The Forensic Science Laboratories Bureau is responsible for the identification, collection, preservation, and analysis of physical and medical evidence associated with the ME-C's cases. Its mission is to conduct a comprehensive scientific investigation into the cause and manner of any death within the ME-C's jurisdiction through the chemical and instrumental analysis of physical and medical evidence.

The Forensic Science Laboratory is fully accredited by the prestigious ANSI National Accreditation Board (ANAB), and our Forensic Blood Alcohol testing program is licensed by the State of California.



#### HISTOLOGY LABORATORY

The histology laboratory facilitates the preparation of gross tissue specimens for microscopic examination by the medical staff. This includes hematoxylin and eosin stains, special stains, and immunohistochemical stains. Through the microscopic examination of tissue, our forensic pathologists can determine the age and degree of injury, diagnose disease including cancers, evaluate cellular variation in tissue, and identify the presence of bacteria and many medical disorders.

#### TOXICOLOGY LABORATORY

The toxicology laboratory uses state of the art equipment and methods to conduct chemical and instrumental analyses on post-mortem specimens to determine the extent that drugs may have contributed to the cause and manner of death. The laboratory's experienced Criminalists offer expert drug interpretation, which assists the medical examiners in answering questions like what drug was taken? How much and when was the drug taken? Did the drug contribute to the cause and/or manner of death? Was the drug use consistent with therapeutic administration, or was it an abuse? If the death is due to a drug overdose, was it intentional or accidental?

# SCANNING ELECTRON MICROSCOPY LABORATORY

The Scanning Electron Microscopy (SEM) laboratory conducts gunshot residue (GSR) analyses and tool mark evaluations. Using a scanning electron microscope equipped with an energy dispersive x-ray detector, GSR analysis is used to determine whether an individual may have fired a weapon. This laboratory also performs GSR analyses for many law enforcement agencies throughout California.

Tool mark analysis involves the evaluation of trauma to biological material, especially bone and cartilage, as to the type of instrument that might have produced the trauma. This not only helps our pathologists understand the circumstances of a death, but also aids the law enforcement agency in their criminal investigation.

#### **OPERATIONS BUREAU**

This bureau is responsible for the 24-hour day, sevenday week operations of many direct services provided by the department. The Operations Bureau houses the Investigations Division and the Decedent Services Division. In addition, the bureau is responsible for disaster and community services, fleet management, public information and other ancillary programs such as regional offices and the Youthful Drunk Driver Visitation Program (YDDVP).

Under state law, all ME-C Investigators are sworn peace officers. The Investigator must meet the same stringent hiring standards as any other California law enforcement agency. The Department of Medical Examiner-Coroner is a California Peace Officer Standards and Training (POST) `10. Many of the Investigators are certified by the American Board of Medicolegal Investigators (AMBDI).

Investigators are also responsible for testimony in court and deposition on ME-C cases along with preparation of investigative reports critical in the determination of cause and manner of death.

The department participates in a state-mandated program to examine dental records of known missing persons to aid in the identification of John and Jane Does and in a state-mandated program to investigate certain nursing home deaths to determine whether a death may be certified as natural by a private physician or handled as a Medical Examiner-Coroner's case.

# YOUTHFUL DRUNK DRIVER VISITATION PROGRAM (YDDVP)

The Department of Medical Examiner-Coroner has offered the YDDVP program since 1989 as an alternative sentence option that can be considered by a judicial officer. The program is designed to present to the participants the real consequences of certain behavior combined with education. The program is currently offered up to 12 times per month and includes classes presented in Spanish.

# ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES BUREAU

The Administrative Services Bureau is responsible for all departmental financial operations, departmental budget preparation, fiscal reports, personnel, payroll, litigation, procurement, accounting, revenue collection, marketing, volunteer services, affirmative action, contracts and grants, internal control certification, workfare program, facilities management, information technology, and other related functions.

## **PUBLIC SERVICES DIVISION**

This division is responsible for ME-C case file management, revenue collection (document sales, decedent billing, etc.), and interaction with the public both telephonically and in person at the front lobby



reception area. In addition to providing information and copies of autopsy reports, Public Services staff offers many services to the public. These services include preparation of "Proof of Death" letters to verify that a death is being investigated by the ME-C and "Port of Entry" letters to confirm that a decedent had no communicable disease, necessary for the decedent's admission into a foreign country after death.

CALIFORNIA GOVERNMENT CODE, SECTION 27491

It shall be the duty of the Coroner to inquire into and determine the circumstances, manner, and cause of all violent, sudden, or unusual deaths; unattended deaths; deaths where the deceased has not been attended by either a physician or a registered nurse, who is a member of a hospice care interdisciplinary team, as defined by subdivision (e) of Section 1746 of the Health and Safety Code in the 20 days before death; deaths related to or following known or suspected self-induced or criminal abortion; known or suspected homicide, suicide, or accidental poisoning; deaths known or suspected as resulting in whole or in part from or related to accident or injury either old or recent; deaths due to drowning, fire, hanging, gunshot, stabbing, cutting, exposure, starvation, acute alcoholism, drug addiction, strangulation, aspiration, or where the suspected cause of death is sudden infant death syndrome; death in whole or in part occasioned by criminal means; deaths associated with a known or alleged rape or crime against nature; deaths in prison or while under sentence; deaths known or suspected as due to contagious disease and constituting a public hazard; deaths from occupational diseases or occupational hazards; deaths of patients in state mental hospitals serving the mentally disabled and operated by the State Department of Mental Health; deaths of patients in state hospitals serving the developmentally disabled and operated by the State Department of Developmental Services; deaths under such circumstances as to afford a reasonable ground to suspect that the death was caused by the criminal act of another; and any deaths reported by physicians or other persons having knowledge of a death for inquiry by coroner.

# STATISTICAL SUMMARY

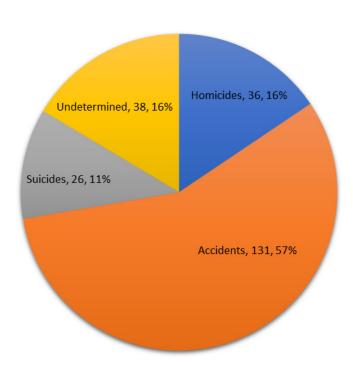
In calendar year 2019, the total child deaths referred to the Inter-Agency Council on Child Abuse and Neglect (ICAN) for tracking and follow-up was 212. In calendar year 2020, the number referred to ICAN was 231, an increase of 19 cases. The Medical Examiner-Coroner refers to ICAN all nonnatural deaths where the decedent was less than 18 years of age. If the mode of death is homicide, only those cases where the death is caused by a parent, caregiver, or other family member are referred to ICAN.







# 231 Reportable ICAN Cases



DEPARTMENT OF MEDICAL EXAMINER-CORONER SELECTED FINDINGS				
By Cause of Death	2019	2020	Difference	
Abandoned newborn	0	0	0	
Bathtub drowning	2	0	-2	
Falling television sets	0	0	0	
Traffic Accident age less than or equal 5 years old 2 3 +1				
Swimming pool drowning, age less than 5 years old	0	10	+10	







#### Figure 1 **2020 DEATH STATISTICS** Case Comparison by Mode of Death & Gender (Total ICAN cases: 231) 2020 Total 2020 % of Total By Mode of Death **2019 Total Cases** 2019 % of Total Cases **Total** Difference Accident 110 51.89% 131 56.71% 19.34% 15.58% Homicide 41 36 -5 Suicide 20 9.43% 26 11.26% 6 -3 Undetermined 41 19.34% 38 16.45% 100% 100% **TOTAL** 212 231 2020 % of 2020 Total **Total** By Gender **2019 Total Cases** 2019 % of Total **Total Difference Cases Female** 77 36.32% 89 38.53% 12 Male 134 63.21% 139 60.17% 5 2 **Undetermined** 1 .47% 3 1.30% **TOTAL** 212 100% 100% 231

# Figure 2 2020 DEATH STATISTICS Case Comparison by Mode of Ethnicity & Age (Total ICAN Cases: 231)

By Ethnicity	Total Cases	% of Total
American Indian	1	0.43%
Asian	15	6.49%
Black	47	20.35%
Caucasian	47	20.35%
Middle Eastern	1	1.30%
Hispanic/Latin American	105	45.45%
Unknown	13	5.63%
TOTAL	231	100.0%

By Age	Total Cases	% of Total
Stillborn	34	14.72%
1 day - 30 days	8	3.46%
1 – 5 months	28	12.12%
6 months - 1 year	11	4.76%
1 year	9	3.90%
2	4	1.73%
3	5	2.16%
4	5	2.16%
5	2	0.87%
6	3	1.30%
7	1	0.43%
8	2	0.87%
9	2	0.87%
10	2	0.87%
11	6	2.60%
12	3	1.30%
13	13	5.63%
14	14	6.06%
15	13	5.63%
16	27	11.69%
17	39	16.88%
(BLANK)	0	0.00%
TOTAL	231	100.0%





# Figure 3 2020 MODE OF DEATH: ACCIDENTS BY GENDER, BY ETHNICITY, & BY AGE (TOTAL ICAN CASES: 131)

Accidents by Gender	Total Cases	% of Total
Female	46	35.11%
Male	82	62.60%
Unknown	3	2.29%
TOTAL	131	100.0%

Accidents by Ethnicity	<b>Total Cases</b>	% of Total
Unknown	9	6.87%
American Indian	1	0.76%
Asian	7	5.34%
Black	18	13.74%
Caucasian	29	22.14%
Hispanic/Latin American	66	50.38%
(Blank)	1	0.76%
TOTAL	131	100.0%

Accidents by Age	Total Cases	% of Total
Stillborn	31	23.66%
1 day - 30 days	4	3.05%
1 month - 5 months	6	4.58%
6 months – 1 year	4	3.05%
1 years	6	4.58%
2 years	4	3.05%
3 years	4	3.05%
4 years	3	2.29%
5 years	0	0%
6 years	1	0.76%
7 years	1	0.76%
9 years	1	0.76%
10 years	1	0.76%
11 years	4	3.05%
12 years	1	0.76%
13 years	6	4.58%
14 years	3	2.29%
15 years	7	5.34%
16 YEARS	14	10.69%
17 YEARS	29	22.14%
(BLANK)	0	0.00%
TOTAL	131	100.0%

#### Figure 4 2020 MODE OF DEATH: ACCIDENTS by Cause of Death (Total ICAN Cases: 131) **Accidents By Cause of Death Total Cases** % of Total **Asphyxia** 6 4.58% Drowning 10 7.63% **Fentanyl Toxicity** 26 19.85% **Gunshot Wound** 4 3.05% **Intrauterine Fetal Demise** 31 23.66% **Blunt Trauma** 39 29.77% **Unspecified Drug-Accident** 6 4.58% Other 9 6.87% **TOTAL** 131 100.0%







# Figure 5

# 2020 MODE OF DEATH: HOMICIDE BY GENDER, BY ETHNICITY, & BY AGE (TOTAL ICAN CASES: 35)

Homicides by Gender	Total Cases	% of Total
Female	9	25%
Male	27	75%
TOTAL	35	100%

Homicides by Ethnicity	Total Cases	% of Total
Asian	2	5.56%
Black	14	38.89%
Caucasian	6	16.67%
Hispanic/Latin American	14	38.89%
Blank	0	0%
Unknown	0	0%
TOTAL	36	100.0%

Homicides by Age	Total Cases	% of Total
Stillborn	1	2.78%
1 month - 5 months	2	5.56%
1 years	1	2.78%
3 years	1	2.78%
4 years	2	5.56%
5 years	1	2.78%
6 years	2	5.56%
8 years	1	2.78%
10 years	1	2.78%
11 years	1	2.78%
12 years	1	2.78%
13 years	3	8.33%
14 years	3	8.33%
15 years	2	5.56%
16 years	7	19.44%
17 years	7	19.44%
TOTAL	36	100.00%

# Figure 6

# 2020 MODE OF DEATH: HOMICIDE BY GENDER BY ETHNICITY & BY AGE (TOTAL ICAN CASES: 36)

BY GENDER, BY ETHNICITY, & BY AGE (TOTAL ICAN CASES: 36)			
Homicides By Cause of Death	Total Cases	% of Total	
ASSAULT BY BLUNT OBJECT	6	16.67%	
ASSAULT BY ASPHYXIATION	2	5.56%	
ASSAULT BY SHARP OBJECT	2	5.56%	
ASSAULT BY UNSPECIFIED MEANS	1	2.78%	
GUNSHOT WOUND	25	69.44%	
TOTAL	36	100.0%	







# Figure 7

# 2020 MODE OF DEATH: SUICIDE BY GENDER, BY ETHNICITY, & BY AGE (TOTAL ICAN CASES: 26)

Suicides by Gender	Total Cases	% of Total
Female	13	50%
Male	13	50%
TOTAL	26	100.0%

Suicides by Ethnicity	<b>Total Cases</b>	% of Total
Asian	4	15.38%
Black	2	7.69%
Caucasian	8	30.77%
Hispanic/Latin American	11	42.31%
Unknown	1	3.85%
TOTAL	26	100.0%

Suicides by Age	<b>Total Cases</b>	% of Total
9 years	1	3.85%
11 years	1	3.85%
12 years	1	3.85%
13 years	4	15.38%
14 years	7	26.92%
15 years	3	11.54%
16 years	6	23.08%
17 years	3	11.54%
TOTAL	26	100.0%

By Cause of Death	Total Cases	% of Total
Jumped Off Building	2	7.69%
Struck by Vehicle	1	3.85%
Strangulation - Suicide	17	65.38%
Intentional Ingestion	2	7.69%
Self-Inflicted Gunshot Wound	4	15.38%
TOTAL	26	100.0%
TOTAL	29	100.0%

# Figure 8

# 2020 MODE OF DEATH: UNDETERMINED BY CAUSE OF DEATH TOTAL UNDETERMINED CASES: 38

Undetermined by Gender	Total Cases	% of Total
Female	21	55%
Male	17	45%
Unknown	0	0.00%
TOTAL	38	100.0%

Undetermined by Ethnicity	Total Cases	% of Total		
Asian	2	5.26%		
Black	13	34.21%		
Caucasian	7	18.42%		
Hispanic/Latin American	14	36.84%		
(Blank)	1	2.63%		
Unknown	1	2.63%		
TOTAL	38	100.0%		

Undetermined by Age	Total Cases	% of Total
Stillborn	2	5.26%
1 day to 30 days	4	10.53%
1- 5 months	20	52.63%
6 months to 1 year	7	18.42%
1 years	2	5.26%
5 years	1	2.63%
14 years	1	2.63%
15 years	1	2.63%
TOTAL	38	100.0%







Figure 9											
MODE OF DEATH: UNDETERMINED BY CAUSE OF DEATH (TOTAL CASES 38)											
Undetermined By Cause of Death	Total Cases	% of Total									
Sudden Infant Death (SIDS)	29	76.32%									
Other	2	5.26%									
Unknown	7	18.42%									
TOTAL	38	100.0%									

#### **GLOSSARY OF TERMS**

**Accident:** Death due to an unforeseen injury, or, in children, a lapse in the usual protection.

**Autopsy:** Post mortem (after death) examination of a body including the internal organs and structures, including dissection to determine cause of death or the nature of the pathologic change.

**Death:** For legal and medical purposes: a person is dead who has sustained either:

- (a) Irreversible cessation of circulatory and respiratory functions, or
- (b) Irreversible cessation of all functions of the entire brain

Decedent: A person who is dead.

**Homicide:** Death at the hands of another. The legal system rather than the ME-C determines whether a homicide is legal, justified, intentional, or malicious. In children and the elderly, neglect (failure to protect) is classified as homicide.

**Manner**: Classification of death based on the conditions that cause death and the circumstances under which the conditions occur. The ME-C classifies all deaths using one of the following five manners: accident, homicide, natural, suicide, or undetermined.

**Mode:** Classification of death based on the conditions that cause death and the circumstances under which the conditions occur. The ME-C classifies all deaths using one of the following five modes: accident, homicide, natural, Suicide, or undetermined.

**Natural:** Death due solely to disease and/or the aging process.

Suicide: The intentional taking of one's own life.

**Undetermined**: Cases in which the ME-C is unable to assign a specific manner of death (natural, accident, suicide, homicide).

These cases often involve either insufficient information or conflicting information that affects the Medical Examiner-Coroner's ability to make a final determination. The ME-C may designate a death as undetermined as a signal to law enforcement that the case warrants a more in-depth investigation to try to answer some of the questions surrounding the death.

The ME-C classifies a death as undetermined when, after a complete investigation and autopsy and consideration of all available information, the information pointing to one manner of death is no more compelling than one or more other competing manners of death.

State of Child Abuse



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# SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT

The Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department (LASD) is a law enforcement agency which serves Los Angeles County, California. It was formed in April 1850. The County area totals approximately 4,084 square miles with a population of just over 10 million residents (2020 U.S. Census Bureau). It is the largest Sheriff's Department in the world, with approximately 18,000 employees. LASD provides general law enforcement services to 42 contract cities, 141 unincorporated communities, 216 facilities, hospitals, and clinics throughout the County, nine community colleges, the Metropolitan Transit Authority, and 37 Superior Courts. LASD also provides services, such as crime laboratories, homicide investigations, and academy training, to smaller law enforcement agencies within the County. Additionally, LASD is responsible for providing security at seven custody facilities.

# SPECIAL VICTIMS BUREAU OVERVIEW

Special Victims Bureau (SVB) is one of seven highly specialized bureaus in LASD's Detective Division. SVB investigates all allegations of physical abuse and sexual abuse of children, under the age of 18, which occur within the LASD jurisdiction. On September 1, 2012, SVB also assumed the investigative responsibility of all adult felony sexual assaults. On June 2, 2019, LASD's Human Trafficking Task Force (HTTF) which included the Sexual Assault Felony Enforcement (SAFE) Team Program merged with SVB. The HTTF detectives investigate all reports of sex and labor trafficking, focusing primarily on the sex trafficking of minors. The SAFE Team is responsible for assisting LASD patrol stations with sex offender registration (Penal Code 290) compliance, oversight of the registration program, and investigating child abuse and exploitation cases involving prior sex registrants. The SAFE Team also investigates cases that involve the production, use, or possession of child pornography, sexual exploitation cases having a nexus to the internet where the suspect and victim have never met, cases where a minor victim receives graphic images from an unknown source, sextortion of a minor via the internet, and on-line enticement of a minor for sexual purposes.

It should be noted, cases of child endangerment, neglect, emotional abuse, and child concealment are investigated by detectives assigned to one of the 23 regional LASD patrol stations located throughout Los Angeles County. These types of cases are not included in this report.

The evolution of SVB began in 1972, with the formation of Youth Services Bureau which was primarily responsible for handling juvenile diversions. Two years later, the Child Abuse Unit was created and investigated these specialized cases. In 1986, the Juvenile Investigations Bureau was formed and assimilated the existing Child Abuse Unit, while still maintaining the responsibilities for juvenile diversions, petition intake and control, and juvenile delinquency court liaisons. In 1999, the formation of Family Crimes Bureau (FCB) was established. The new consolidated units investigated all incidents of family crime, until FCB was renamed Special Victims Bureau in 2006 and given the sole task of investigating physical and sexual child abuse cases, along with all adult felony sexual assaults in 2012.

Before a Deputy Sheriff is assigned to SVB, he or she must go through a testing process which consists



of a written and oral examination. The candidate is then placed on an eligibility list. When a candidate is selected to become a SVB detective, he or she is assigned to a tenured SVB detective for up to six months. The new detective receives training in the investigation of physical and sexual abuse of children, in interviewing and interrogation techniques, in arrest and search warrant writing, and in case management. The new detectives are introduced to various social workers from the Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS), Deputy District Attorneys

from the District Attorney's Office, detectives from other law enforcement agencies, along with medical doctors and nurses.

SVB detectives and sergeants provide inservice training in child abuse laws and child abuse investigations to Department personnel and occasionally to police officers at other law enforcement agencies. Similar training is also offered to social service providers, foster family agencies, schools, parents, and civic groups. In addition, there has been cross training between DCFS and the Sheriff's Department, which includes the training of new social workers. This collaborative effort has created transparency and has forged a strong partnership between the two departments to continue providing quality service to the people of Los Angeles County.

SVB detectives and sergeants also provide guidance to all LASD station personnel 24 hours a day regarding child abuse matters and adult felony sexual assaults. During other than normal business hours, the detectives, and sergeants, along with the field lieutenants are placed on a weekly rotational on-call roster.

- In the event Department personnel need guidance, during after hours, the Department member can call the on-call evaluator (detective) for advice and/or request detectives to respond to assist in an investigation, if one or more of the following conditions exist:
- · Shaken Baby Syndrome;
- Victim taken to hospital with serious injuries from physical or sexual abuse;
- Significant felony related to SVB crimes;
- A crime scene with possible evidence collection;

- Suspect arrested and may bond out prior to next business day;
- Significant workable information available to apprehend a dangerous suspect related to SVB crimes;
- Station commander makes a specific request;
- Serious domestic violence with child victimization is suspected;
- Incidents of Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children (CSEC);
- Any significant Human Trafficking incident.

In 2020, SVB which now included HTTF and the SAFE Team had 84 budgeted detectives, 10 sergeants, six lieutenants, and one captain. SVB was comprised of six investigative regional teams. Each team was assigned one sergeant to oversee the detectives on the respective teams. were two field lieutenants, which each supervised three regional teams. HTTF was comprised of two investigative teams. Each team was assigned one sergeant and one lieutenant to oversee the detectives on the respective teams. The SAFE Team was comprised of one investigative team. The team was assigned one sergeant and one lieutenant to oversee the detectives on the team. The Bureau had one operations lieutenant and one captain that oversaw all the entities within SVB.

# HUMAN TRAFFICKING TASK FORCE AND SAFE TEAM OVERVIEW

Human Trafficking, also known as modern day slavery or trafficking in persons, is the exploitation of human beings through force, fraud, or coercion for the purposes of commercial sex or forced labor.

The Human Trafficking Task Force combines one mission, under one roof, to support the investigative strategies of federal, state, county, and local law enforcement from a multitude of policing agencies across California, under the leadership and expertise of the nations' largest Sheriff's Department, with the prosecutorial authority of the United States Attorney's Office, the California State Attorney General, and the Los Angeles District Attorney's Office.

The SAFE Teams Program mission, pursuant to California Penal Code (PC) 13887-13887.5, shall be to reduce violent sexual assault offenses in the County through proactive surveillance and arrest of habitual sexual offenders and strict enforcement of



registration requirements for sex offenders pursuant to PC section 290.

# CHILD ABUSE INVESTIGATION PROCEDURES FOR LAW ENFORCEMENT

As first responders, when a law enforcement agency receives a report of a child abuse incident, they have a duty and responsibility to protect the child from further abuse and to investigate the incident as quickly, thoroughly, and completely as possible.

Law enforcement agencies receive reports of child abuse or suspected child abuse directly from either a concerned person, a mandated reporter, or by DCFS. When a report of child abuse is received by a law enforcement agency from someone other than DCFS, that agency cross reports the information to DCFS immediately. DCFS sends their Suspected Child Abuse Report (SCAR) electronically to the law enforcement agency that has jurisdiction over the incident. Even though many of these suspected child abuse incidents may not rise to the level for a criminal report to be written, each reported incident shall always be thoroughly investigated.

When the Sheriff's Department receives a SCAR, it is handled as a "call for service." This ensures a timely response to all SCARs received. The responding deputy will conduct a preliminary investigation of all alleged suspected child abuse or neglect calls. The deputy conducts a "face-to-face" interview with the victim or informant if the child in unable to communicate. If the deputy is at the child's residence, he/she will examine the living conditions, collect evidence, and interview the alleged suspect when applicable.

Upon suspicion that a child has been abused or neglected, the deputy will write an Incident Report with the SCAR attached. The report is then processed and assigned to an SVB detective who will conduct a thorough and complete investigation.

At the completion of an investigation, the case may be presented to the District Attorney's Office for filing consideration, handled at the Bureau level with an admonishment, or the findings yielded that the elements of a crime were not met.

The electronic SCAR (E-SCAR) system was implemented on April 13, 2009, at all Sheriff's stations. This new E-SCAR system is a refinement of the old SCAR system, which was first operational in September 2003. The new system has

revolutionized the methodology of cross-reporting between the Sheriff's Department and DCFS, has improved patrol response times to these calls, and has mitigated potentially further abuse or neglect of children.

As of December 1, 2009, SVB assumed oversight responsibilities of the E-SCAR system to ensure that SCARs are handled in a timely manner. A monthly SCAR "Clearance Status Report" is provided to all station captains for their review and disposition.

In 2020, the Sheriff's Department received approximately 13,043 E-SCARs from DCFS.

# THE IMPACT OF COVID-19

On March 11, 2020, the World Health Organization (WHO) declared a global pandemic caused by a virus known as Covid-19, its first such designation since declaring H1N1 influenza pandemic in 2009 (Journal of Infection and Public Health, Volume 13, Issue 12). The pandemic created several investigative challenges for the detectives. County facilities were closed to the public, many businesses were closed, and shortly after a stay-at-home order was issued in California, forcing investigators to be creative and adaptive when conducting their investigations. The detectives at times had to utilize available on-line video resources to effectively move forward with their investigations.

As the detectives continued investigating their cases, through this uncertain time of the global pandemic, they were reminded to be cognizant of hand washing, don personal protective equipment, and practice social distancing.

SVB personnel also utilized virtual meetings to stay connected to the various resources to continue to employ a multidisciplinary team approach to the investigation and for the welfare of the victims.

From 2019 to 2020, the Sheriff's Department saw a decrease of 3,841 E-SCARs received from DCFS and a decrease of 661 SVB related criminal reports.





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The data contained in the following tables and figures was obtained from LASD's Child Abuse Referral Entry System (CARES).

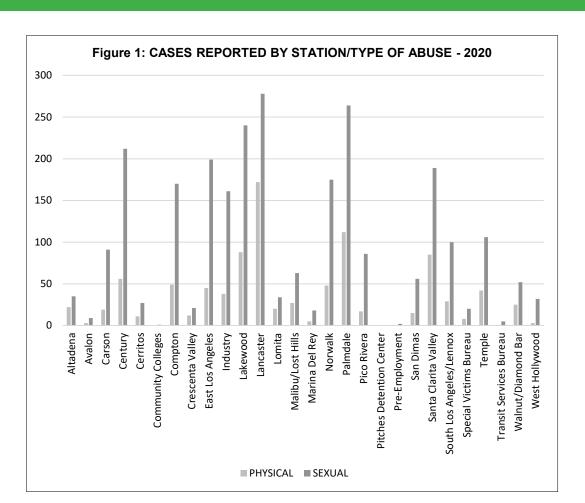
Table 1					
CASES REPO	RTED BY STATIO	ON AND TYPE O	F ABUSE 2020		
STATION	PHYSICAL	SEXUAL	TOTAL		
Altadena	22	35	57		
Avalon	3	9	12		
Carson	19	91	110		
Century	56	212	268		
Cerritos	11	27	38		
Community Colleges	0	1	1		
Compton	49	170	219		
Crescenta Valley	12	21	33		
East Los Angeles	45	199	244		
Industry	38	161	199		
Lakewood	88	240	328		
Lancaster	172	278	450		
Lomita	20	34	54		
Malibu/Lost Hills	27	63	90		
Marina Del Rey	5	18	23		
Norwalk	48	175	223		
Palmdale	112	264	376		
Pico Rivera	17	86	103		
Pitches Detention Center	0	0	0		
Pre-Employment	0	2	2		
San Dimas	15	56	71		
Santa Clarita Valley	85	189	274		
South Los Angeles/Lennox	29	100	129		
Special Victims Bureau	8	20	28		
Temple	42	106	148		
Transit Services Bureau	0	5	5		
Walnut/Diamond Bar	25	52	77		
West Hollywood	3	32	35		
TOTAL	951	2646	3597		



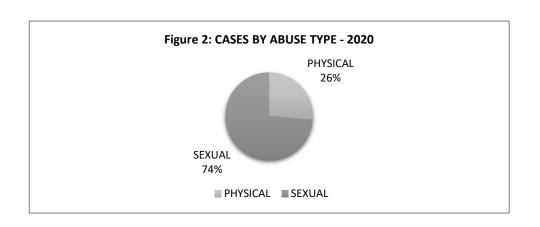
State of Child Abuse















# Table 3 COMPARISON OF PHYSICAL/SEXUAL CASES REPORTED BETWEEN 2016-2020

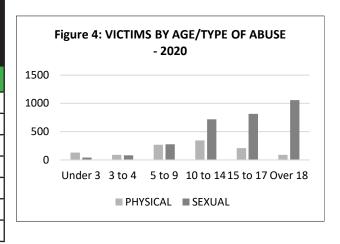
DETV	LLN 2010-2020							
STATION	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020			
Altadena	50	50	72	62	57			
Avalon	7	10	8	16	12			
Carson	118	127	151	127	110			
Century	323	284	291	293	268			
<b>Century Regional Detention Facility</b>	0	1	0	0	0			
Cerritos	40	46	62	49	38			
Community Colleges	2	4	5	7	1			
Compton	241	193	190	201	219			
County Services Bureau	0	0	0	0	0			
Crescenta Valley	34	38	34	31	33			
East Los Angeles	308	315	311	286	244			
Industry	223	237	239	219	199			
Lakewood	339	319	361	341	328			
Lancaster	404	525	649	644	450			
Lomita	63	60	53	41	54			
Malibu/Lost Hills	85	102	121	109	90			
Major Crimes	0	0	1	0	0			
Marina Del Rey	22	31	23	27	23			
Metrolink	1	0	0	0	0			
Narcotics Bureau	0	0	0	0	0			
North County Correctional Facility	0	0	0	0	0			
Norwalk	269	326	317	283	223			
Palmdale	357	407	398	434	376			
Parks Bureau	0	0	0	0	0			
Pico Rivera	109	131	120	123	103			
Pitchess Detention Facility - North	0	0	0	1	0			
Pre-Employment	0	1	1	8	2			
San Dimas	102	110	91	107	71			
Santa Clarita Valley	287	318	301	305	274			
South Los Angeles/Lennox	201	186	162	135	129			
Special Victims Bureau	42	39	48	32	28			
Temple	196	192	173	186	148			
Transit Services	28	17	6	12	5			
Walnut/Diamond Bar	98	121	117	129	77			
West Hollywood	66	67	72	50	35			
TOTAL	4015	4257	4377	4258	3597			

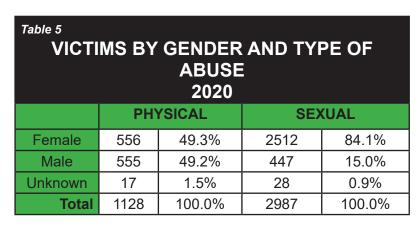






#### Table 4 **VICTIMS BY AGE AND TYPE OF ABUSE** 2020 **PHYSICAL SEXUAL** Under 3 130 11.5% 40 1.3% 3 to 4 89 7.9% 82 2.7% 5 to 9 9.2% 269 23.8% 276 10 to 14 343 30.4% 718 24.0% 209 18.5% 813 27.2% 15 to 17 Over 18 88 7.8% 1058 35.4% TOTAL 1128 100.0% 2987 100.0%





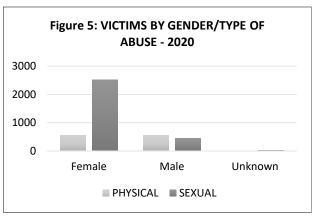
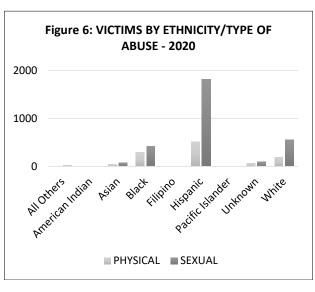


Table 6 VICTIMS BY ETHNICITY AND TYPE OF ABUSE 2020											
	PHYS	SICAL	SEX	(UAL							
All Others	4	0.4%	16	0.5%							
American Indian	1	0.1%	3	0.1%							
Asian	46	4.1%	81	2.7%							
Black	295	26.2%	416	13.9%							
Filipino	0	0.0%	1	0.0%							
Hispanic	518	45.9%	1812	60.7%							
Pacific Islander	2	0.2%	7	0.2%							
Unknown	67	5.9%	98	3.3%							
White	195	17.3%	553	18.5%							
TOTAL	1128	100.0%	2987	100.0%							





# Table 7 SUSPECTS BY AGE AND TYPE OF ABUSE 2020 PHYSICAL SEXUAL Under 18 47 4.5% 528 18.0% 18 - 24 71 6.7% 448 15.2%

57.8%

31.1%

100.0%

940

1023

2939

610

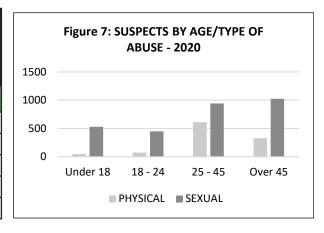
328

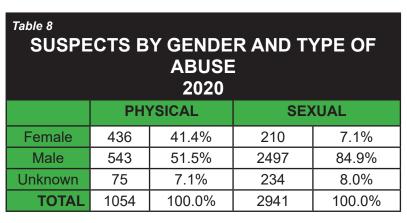
1056

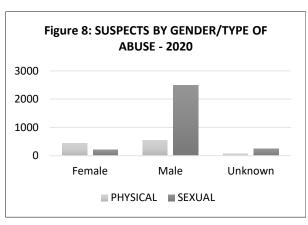
32.0%

34.8%

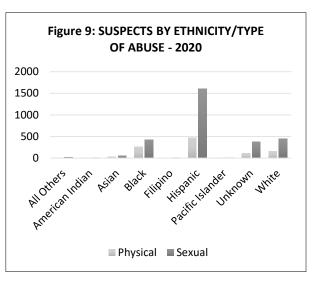
100.0%







#### Table 9 SUSPECTS BY ETHNICITY AND TYPE OF **ABUSE** 2020 **PHYSICAL SEXUAL** All Others 2 0.2% 19 0.6% American 3 1 0.0% 0.3% Indian 3.7% 52 Asian 39 1.8% Black 262 24.9% 431 14.7% **Filipino** 0 0.0% 2 0.1% 469 44.5% 1604 54.5% Hispanic Pacific 2 0.2% 6 0.2% Islander 119 11.3% 381 13.0% Unknown 158 15.0% 445 15.1% White **TOTAL** 1054 100.0% 2941 100.0%



25 - 45

Over 45

**TOTAL** 





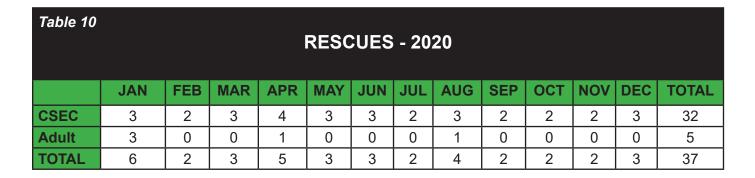


Table 11	ARRESTS - 2020												
	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	ОСТ	NOV	DEC	TOTAL
Male Sex Buyers	34	1	0	0	0	0	0	13	5	14	2	14	83
Human Trafficking Related*	19	5	5	3	2	1	5	3	2	2	2	0	49
Internet Crimes Against Children	7	5	3	0	0	0	7	3	2	1	0	0	28
Arrested for Other Crimes	5	0	0	3	2	2	1	4	7	6	3	0	33
TOTAL	65	11	8	6	4	3	13	23	16	23	7	14	193

Table 11A	HUMAN TRAFFICKING RELATED ARRESTS* - 2020													
	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	ОСТ	NOV	DEC	TOTAL	
Female Adult Commercial Sex Workers	13	0	1	1	0	0	0	2	1	1	1	0	20	
Pimps/ Traffickers	6	5	4	2	2	1	5	1	1	1	1	0	29	
TOTAL	19	5	5	3	2	1	5	3	2	2	2	0	49	



Table 12			S	EARC	CH W	ARR	ANTS	S - 202	20				
	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	ОСТ	NOV	DEC	TOTAL
Search Warrants	45	52	39	71	60	58	65	52	64	71	52	29	658

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Table 13	FEDERAL CASES FILED - 2020													
	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	ОСТ	NOV	DEC	TOTAL	
Federal Cases Filed	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	







# GLOSSARY OF LAW ENFORCEMENT TERMS RELATED TO CHILD ABUSE, ADULT FELONY SEXUAL ASSAULTS, AND HUMAN TRAFFICKING

**Active Rescues** – When one directly inserts themselves into a situation to separate the exploiter and victim.

**Battery** – Any willful and unlawful use of force or violence upon the person of another.

Child Abuse – Any physical injury inflicted on a child by another person, sexual abuse, or emotional abuse.

Child Physical Abuse – Any bodily injury inflicted by other than accidental means on a child, including willful cruelty, unjustifiable punishment, or corporal punishment.

Child Sexual Abuse – The victimization of a child by sexual activities, including molestation, indecent exposure, fondling, rape, and incest.

Commercial Sex – Any sex act on account of which anything of value is given to or received by any person.

Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children (CSEC) – Refers to a range of crimes and activities involving the sexual abuse or exploitation of a child for the financial benefit of any person or in exchange for anything of value given or received by any person.

**Endangerment** – Any situation in which a child is at risk of possible harm, but not actually assaulted or injured.

**Forced Labor** – It is when individuals are compelled to provide work or service using force, fraud, or coercion.

**Incident Reports** – These reports are used to report crimes, arrests, or non-criminal activities (also known as original or first reports).

Mandated Reporter – A person required by state law to report known or suspected child abuse or neglect. Peace officers, social workers, teachers, school administrators, and health practitioners are but a few examples.

**Minor** – A person under the age of 18.

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**Neglect** – A failure to provide the basic necessities (i.e. food, shelter, or medical attention), poor sanitation, and poor hygiene. These cases may be classified as either general neglect or severe neglect.

Passive Rescues – When one surreptitiously contacts the victim(s) and encourages them to escape, providing them information, and other valuable resources.

Physical Abuse (Misdemeanor) – Any physical abuse under circumstances or conditions other than those likely to produce great bodily harm or death.

Physical Abuse (Felony) - Any physical abuse under circumstances likely to produce great bodily harm or death.

**Pimp** – A person who controls prostitutes and arranges clients for them, taking part of their earnings in return. Prostitute – A person who engages in sexual activity for payment.

Protective Custody – Any peace officer may, without a warrant, take into temporary custody a minor, when the officer has reasonable cause to believe the safety and welfare of a child is at stake.

Rape – The penetration, no matter how slight, of the vagina or anus with any body part or object, or oral penetration by a sex organ of another person, without the consent of the victim.







**Sextortion** – A crime that occurs when someone threatens to distribute your private and sensitive material if you do not provide them with images of a sexual nature, sexual favors, or money.

**Sexual Abuse (Misdemeanor)** – An act wherein the punishment is incarceration in a county jail.

**Sexual Abuse (Felony)** – Any lewd or lascivious act wherein the punishment includes the possibility of incarceration in a state prison.

**Sexual Battery** – The touching of an intimate part (sexual organ, anus, groin, or buttocks of any person, and the breast of a female) of another person and the touching is against the will of the person touched, and the touching is for the purpose of sexual arousal, sexual gratification, or sexual abuse.

**Shaken Baby Syndrome** – A form of child abuse that causes severe brain damage.

**Statutory Laws** – In California, the age of consent for lawful sexual relationships is 18 years old. Traffickers (Human) – A person who buys or sells people or makes money from the work people are forced to do, such as sex and/or forced labor.

**Traffickers (Human)** – A person who buys or sells people or makes money from the work people are forced to do, such as sex and/or forced labor.







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# **DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE**

#### INTRODUCTION

Under the leadership of George Gascón, District Attorney for Los Angeles County, the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office (District Attorney's Office) operates with the clear mission of evaluating and prosecuting cases in a fair, evenhanded, and compassionate manner. The District Attorney's Office has demonstrated its commitment to justice for all residents of the county and is dedicated to serving the special needs of child victims and witnesses.

Every year in Los Angeles County, thousands of children are reported to law enforcement and child protective service agencies as victims of abuse and neglect. Dedicated professionals investigate allegations of sexual abuse, physical abuse, and severe neglect involving our most vulnerable population: our children. All too often, the perpetrators of these offenses are those in whom children place the greatest trust – parents, grandparents, foster parents, guardians, teachers, clergy members, coaches, and trusted family friends. The child victim is a primary concern of the District Attorney's Office throughout the prosecution process. Skilled prosecutors are assigned to handle these cases, and victim/witness advocates are readily available to assist the children. District Attorney personnel have the best interests of the child victim or witness in mind. Protection of our children is, and will continue to be, one of the top priorities of the District Attorney's Office.

The District Attorney's Office becomes involved in child abuse cases after the cases are reported to and investigated by the police. Special divisions have been created in the District Attorney's Office to handle child abuse cases. Highly skilled prosecutors with special training in working with children and issues of abuse and neglect are assigned to these divisions. These prosecutors attempt to make the judicial process easier and less traumatic for the child victim and witness. Additionally, there are trained investigators from the District Attorney's Bureau of Investigation and skilled Victim Services Representatives from the Bureau of Victim Services who work with the prosecutors to ensure justice for the youngest victims of crime.

The District Attorney's Office prosecutes all felony crimes and all juvenile delinquency offenses committed in Los Angeles County, and misdemeanor crimes in the unincorporated areas of the county or in jurisdictions where cities have contracted for such service. Felonies are serious crimes for which the maximum punishment under the law is either state prison or death; misdemeanors are crimes for which the maximum punishment is a fine and/or county jail. Cases are referred by law enforcement agencies or by the Grand Jury. The District Attorney's Office is the largest local prosecuting agency in the nation with 2,047 permanent employees and 49 temporary employees as of July 1, 2020. Of the permanent employees, 923 are full-time attorneys and 6 are part-time attorneys. In 2020, the District Attorney's Office reviewed 62,233 felony cases; 33,317 were filed and 28,916 were declined for filing. The District Attorney's Office reviewed 98,078 misdemeanor cases;



71,036 were filed and 27,042 were declined for filing.

# THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY AND CHILDREN IN THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM

Because children are among the most defenseless victims of crime, the law provides special protection Recognizing the special vulnerability and needs of child victims, the District Attorney's Office has mandated that all felony cases involving child physical abuse, neglect, and endangerment; child sexual abuse and exploitation; child human sex trafficking; and child abduction are vertically prosecuted. Vertical prosecution involves assigning specially-trained, experienced prosecutors to handle all aspects of a case from filing to sentencing. In some instances, these Deputy District Attorneys (DDA(s)) are assigned to special divisions (Family Violence Division, Sex Crimes Division, Child Abduction Section, or Abolish Chronic Truancy Program). In other instances, the DDAs are designated as special prosecutors assigned to the Victim Impact Program in Branch Offices (Airport, Antelope Valley, Compton, Long Beach, Norwalk, Pasadena, Pomona, San Fernando, Torrance, and Van Nuys). Deputies with specialized training handle the sexual assault cases adjudicated in Juvenile Delinquency Court.

The vast majority of cases are initially presented to the District Attorney's Office by a local law enforcement agency. When these cases are subject to vertical prosecution under the above criteria, the detective presenting the case is directed to the appropriate DDA for initial review of the police reports. In cases where the child victim is available and it is anticipated that the child's testimony will be utilized at trial, it is strongly encouraged that a pre-filing interview is conducted involving the child, the assigned DDA, and the investigating officer because it is essential to establish rapport between the child and the DDA assigned to evaluate and prosecute the case. In cases alleging sexual abuse of a child, the interview is required absent unusual circumstances. interview provides the child with an opportunity to get to know the prosecutor and allows the prosecutor the opportunity to assess the child's competency to testify. The court will only allow the testimony of a witness who can demonstrate that he or she has the ability to recollect and recall, and can understand and appreciate the importance of relating only the truth while on the witness stand. Ordinarily, this is established by taking an oath administered by the clerk of the court. The law recognizes that a child may not understand the language employed in the

formal oath and thus provides that a child under the age of 10 may be required only to promise to tell the truth (Evidence Code (EC) §710). The prefiling interview affords the DDA an opportunity to determine if the child is sufficiently developed to understand the difference between the truth and a lie, to know that there are consequences for telling a lie while in court, and to recall the incident accurately.

The pre-filing interview will also assist in establishing whether the child will cooperate with the criminal process and, if necessary, testify in court. The victim of a sexual assault (whether an adult or child) cannot be placed in custody for contempt for failing to testify (Code of Civil Procedure (CCP) §1219). If the child who is the victim of sexual assault does not wish to speak with the deputy or is reluctant to commit to testifying in court and his or her testimony is required for a successful prosecution, then the child's decision will be respected.

In all cases involving a child victim, every effort will be made to offer support to the child through the presence of an advocate from the Bureau of Victim Services. The Victim Services Representative will work closely with the child and the child's family (if appropriate) to ensure that they are informed of the options and services available to them, such as counseling or medical assistance. Victim Services Representatives are available for assistance and are specially trained to handle domestic abuse cases where the child is victimized. Such cases may involve domestic violence between teenagers or between an adult in a domestic relationship with a person under the age of 18.

As with Sex Crimes, the victim cannot be placed in custody for failing to testify (CCP §1219). Instead, the District Attorney's Office will make every attempt to secure the victim's cooperation by utilizing all available resources in order to keep the victim safe. Resources include referrals from Victim Services Representatives to domestic violence counselors or medical practitioners.

After reviewing the evidence presented by the investigating officer from the law enforcement agency, the DDA must determine that four basic requirements are met before a case can be filed:

 After a thorough consideration of all pertinent facts presented following a complete investigation, the prosecutor is satisfied that the evidence proves that the accused is guilty of the





- crime to be charged;
- 2. There is legally sufficient, admissible evidence of the basic elements of the crime to be charged;
- 3. There is legally sufficient, admissible evidence of the accused's identity as the perpetrator of the crime charged; and
- 4. The prosecutor has considered the probability of conviction by an objective fact-finder and has determined that the admissible evidence is of such convincing force that it would warrant conviction of the crime charged by a reasonable and objective fact-finder after hearing all the evidence available to the prosecutor at the time of charging and after considering the most plausible, reasonably foreseeable defense inherent in the prosecution evidence.

If a case does not meet the above criteria, the DDA will decline to prosecute the case and write the reasons for the declination on a designated form. The reasons can include, but are not limited to:

- A lack of proof regarding an element of the offense;
- A lack of sufficient evidence establishing that a crime occurred or that the accused is the perpetrator of the offense alleged;
- The victim is unavailable or declines to testify; or
- The facts of the case do not rise to the level of felony conduct.

When the assessment determines that misdemeanor conduct has occurred, the case is either referred to the appropriate city prosecutor's office or, in jurisdictions where the District Attorney prosecutes misdemeanor crimes, the case is filed as a misdemeanor.

Once a determination has been made that sufficient evidence exists to file a case, the DDA will employ special provisions that are designed to reduce the stress imposed upon a child during the court process. When a child under the age of 11 is testifying in a criminal proceeding in which the defendant is charged with certain specified crimes, the court, in its discretion, may:

- Allow for reasonable breaks and relief from examination during which the child witness may leave the courtroom (Penal Code (PC) §868.8(a));
- Remove its robe if it is believed that such formal attire may intimidate the child (PC §868.8(b));
- Relocate the parties and the courtroom furniture to facilitate a more comfortable and personal

- environment for the child witness (PC §868.8(c)); or
- Provide for testimony to be taken during the hours that the child would normally be attending school (PC §868.8(d)).

These provisions come under the general directive that the court "shall take special precautions to provide for the comfort and support of the minor and to protect the minor from coercion, intimidation, or undue influence as a witness..." provided in the Penal Code (PC §868.8).

There are additional legal provisions available to better enable children to speak freely and accurately of the experiences that are the subject of judicial inquiry:

- The court may designate up to two persons of the child's own choosing for support, one of whom may accompany the child to the witness stand while the second person remains in the courtroom (PC §868.5(a));
- Each county is encouraged to provide a room, located inside of, or within a reasonable distance from, the courthouse, for use by children under the age of 16 whose appearance has been subpoenaed by the court (PC §868.6(b));
- The court may, upon a motion by the prosecution and under limited circumstances, permit a hearing closed to the public (PC §§868.7(a) and 859.1), or testimony on closed-circuit television or via videotape (PC §1347);
- The child must only be asked questions that are worded appropriately for his or her age and level of cognitive development (EC §765(b)); or
- The child must have his or her age and level of cognitive development considered in the evaluation of credibility (PC §1127f); and the prosecutor may ask leading questions of the child witness on direct examination (EC §767(b)).

# SPECIALLY TRAINED PROSECUTORS WORKING WITH CHILDREN IN THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM

DDAs who are assigned the challenge of prosecuting cases in which children are victimized receive special training throughout their assignment to enhance their ability to effectively prosecute these cases. These DDAs work very closely with Victim Services Representatives from the Bureau of Victim Services and other agencies to diminish the potential for additional stress and trauma caused

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by the experience of the child's participation in the criminal justice system.

The District Attorney's Office has long recognized that the key to successful prosecution is constant communication with victims during the criminal court process. DDAs who vertically prosecute cases are responsible for keeping victims and their parents or guardians apprised of court dates, disposition offers, and sentencing. In 2009, voters enacted Proposition 9 – Marsy's Law, which amended the California Constitution, Article 1, Section 28. This constitutional provision enumerates certain victims' rights. The District Attorney's Office promptly instituted procedures to satisfy the legal requirements for all criminal cases to ensure that victims remained informed about the criminal court proceedings.

#### SPECIAL DIVISIONS AND PROGRAMS

The District Attorney's Office has formed a system of special divisions and programs designed either as part of their overall mandate or specifically for the purpose of recognizing the special nature of prosecutions in which children are involved in the trial process as either victims or witnesses.

# ABOLISH CHRONIC TRUANCY

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The Abolish Chronic Truancy Program (ACT) is a District Attorney's Office crime prevention/ intervention program that enforces compulsory education laws by focusing on parental responsibility and accountability. ACT targets the parents and guardians of elementary and middle school-aged children who are habitually truant and those who are in danger of becoming chronically truant. By addressing the problem early, during a stage of development when parents have greater control over the behavior of their children, the chances of students developing good attendance habits are increased. Likewise, the likelihood of truancy problems emerging in middle and high school years, a leading precursor to juvenile delinquency and later adult criminality, is decreased. Losing days of learning in elementary school years can cause children to fall behind in their education. It is often difficult for these truant students to catch up and compete academically with their peers. When successes for a student are few at school, attendance predictably drops, and the cycle of truancy becomes entrenched. This, in turn, drastically increases a student's likelihood of dropping out of high school.

ACT partners primarily with elementary and a few middle schools throughout Los Angeles County. Among ACT's goals are promoting a greater understanding of the compulsory education laws, increasing the in-seat attendance of children at school, and identifying appropriate referrals to assist families who are not in compliance with school attendance laws. Through a series of escalating interventions, the message consistently conveyed by representatives of the District Attorney's Office is that parents must get their children to school every day, and on time, because it is good for the child and for the community, and because it is the law.

ACT is now in partnership with approximately 375 schools in Los Angeles County. ACT personally contacted the parents of 2,640 students to intervene in the cycle of truancy in 2020. An independent review of the program by the RAND Corporation shows that year after year the program reduces unexcused absences in program participants by five to eight days on average. Students who are in the ACT program have a greatly reduced chance of becoming a juvenile delinquent.

ACT personnel serve on School Attendance Review Boards. In 2020, ACT personnel attended 134 School Attendance Review Board meetings. The program also conducts truancy information meetings for parents and students at the high school level and for parents of kindergarten students.

# **Truancy Mediation**

Truancy mediation is an interim statutorily authorized step to avoid prosecution when parents or students older than 13 fail to adhere to the law through repeated unexcused absences, following strong intervention at the school site level.

Truancy mediation, as a final step before prosecution of the students and/or their parents, is authorized by Welfare and Institutions Code §601.3 and Education Code §48263.5. The goal of mediation is to prevent further truancy and to restore the student to improved school attendance. However, if the mediation does not result in acceptable school attendance, parents may be taken to court.

The Truancy Mediation Program received 133 referrals for mediation in 2020.

# **CHILD ABDUCTION SECTION**







The Child Abduction Section was established in 1986. Child abduction cases involve cross-jurisdictional issues covering criminal, dependency, family law, and probate courts. The District Attorney's Office works in criminal court, civil court, and under an international treaty in efforts to recover abducted children and punish the abductor when appropriate. The Child Abduction Section handles all child abduction cases under PC §§278 and 278.5, which include stranger, parental, relative, and other cases. The victim of the crime is the lawful custodian of the child. It is essential for the abducted child to be treated with particular sensitivity and understanding during the prosecution of these cases.

California civil law has granted District Attorneys the authority to take all actions necessary, using criminal and civil procedures, to locate and return the child and the person violating the custody order to the court of proper jurisdiction. The Child Abduction Section employs several District Attorney Investigators (DAIs) to recover children wrongfully taken and return them to their custodial parent(s). In addition, the Child Abduction Section handles all cases arising under the Hague Convention on the Civil Aspects of International Child Abduction. There are now 83 signatory countries and territories with respect to the Hague Convention on the Civil Aspects of International Child Abduction.

Services available to the public are explained on the District Attorney's Office's website (da.lacounty.gov). The questionnaire that must be completed to obtain Family Code services may be downloaded and filled out in the privacy of the home and then brought to our downtown office located at the Hall of Justice, 211 W. Temple Street, Suite 300, Los Angeles, CA 90012.

In 2020, the Child Abduction Section filed 38 new criminal cases. As of the end of 2020, there were 23 pending cases.

In 2020, the DAIs initiated 49 new cases under the Family Code and closed 65 cases. In 2020, the DAIs successfully recovered 15 children.

The Child Abduction Section assisted with 20 cases litigated under the terms of the Hague Convention, resulting in the recovery of 6 children.

The Child Abduction Section continues to conduct numerous training sessions with the Los Angeles Police Department (LAPD), the Los Angeles Sheriff's Department, other law enforcement agencies, the Family Law Court, the California District Attorneys Association, and other interested organizations. This training is critical because we are still finding agencies, or members of these agencies, operating under a misconception that a parent cannot be criminally prosecuted for abducting his or her own child. The training is designed to provide the necessary information to first responders and investigating officers in order to quickly get relevant information into local and national recovery systems, and to properly investigate and file these serious felony cases with the Child Abduction Section.

# **FAMILY VIOLENCE DIVISION**

The Family Violence Division (FVD) was established in July 1994. FVD is responsible for the vertical prosecution of felony domestic violence and child physical abuse and endangerment cases in the Central Judicial District. At times, FVD deputies travel to different courthouses within Los Angeles County to vertically prosecute intimate partner and child homicide cases. Allocating special resources to abate serious spousal abuse in Los Angeles County was prompted by the 1993 Department of Justice report which found that one-third of the domestic violence calls in the State of California came from Los Angeles County. Children living in homes where domestic violence occurs are often subjected to physical abuse as well as the inherent emotional trauma that results from an environment of violence in the home. FVD's staff includes Deputy District Attorneys, District Attorney Investigators, Victim Services Representatives, paralegals. witness assistants, and clerical support staff. All of the staff are specially trained to deal sensitively with family violence victims. The goal is to make certain that the victims are protected and that their abusers are held justly accountable in a court of law for the crimes they commit.

FVD specializes in prosecuting intimate partner and child homicides and attempted homicides, child abuse, and intimate partner sex cases. It also handles cases involving serious and recidivist family violence offenders who commit crimes such as intimate partner corporal injury, criminal threats, stalking, etc. FVD's staff is actively involved in legislative advocacy and many inter-agency prevention, intervention, and educational efforts throughout the county. Consistent with its mission, FVD continues to bring a commitment to appreciating the seriousness of the cases and respecting the



victims in the prosecution of family violence cases. This was very much needed for the criminal justice system to do its part in stopping the cycle of violence bred from domestic violence and child abuse.

A significant portion of the work done by FVD staff involves the prosecution of felony child physical abuse/endangerment cases. The harm to children ranges from injuries such as bruises, scarring, burns, broken bones, and brain damage to death. In many instances, the abuse is long-term; however, there are instances, wherein a single incident of abuse results in a felony filing. At the conclusion of 2020, FVD was in the process of prosecuting 25 murder cases involving child victims. When a murder charge under PC §187 is filed involving a child victim under the age of eight and the death is due to abuse of the child, a second charge of assault resulting in death of a child under eight, a violation of PC §273ab, is also filed in most instances. It can be extremely difficult to convict a parent of murdering their child because jurors must find that the parent acted with malice and intended to kill their child. In cases alleging abuse of a child under eight leading to death, the jury need not find that the parent intended to kill the child. It is sufficient for the jury to find that the parent intended or permitted the abuse that led to the death of the child in order to convict. The punishment for violating PC §273ab is a sentence of 25 years to life in state prison – the same punishment as a conviction of first-degree murder.

In child abuse or homicide cases where one parent, guardian, or caregiver abuses or kills a child, the law provides that the passive parent, guardian, or caregiver may also be held criminally liable. The passive parent is one who has a duty of care for the child, knows he or she has that duty of care, and intentionally fails to perform that duty of care. In 2008, the appellate court upheld the verdict in a case filed by FVD against the passive parent, solidifying case law in support of such charges (People v. Rolon (2008) 160 Cal. App.4th 1206). The premise used in Rolon continues to be used by FVD prosecutors today. In 2017, the mother of a two-year-old child was charged with second-degree murder after she left the child in the care of her abusive boyfriend. When she came home and discovered the badly injured child, she initially failed to take the child to the hospital, and when she finally did, she tried to hide the abuse, by applying make-up to his injuries. She was convicted of second-degree murder for her failure to act to help her child.

Additionally, FVD attorneys prosecute intimate partner homicide cases where children have observed one parent killing another. Forensic interviewers are utilized to determine what a child witness saw. When children must testify, FVD attorneys ensure that support persons are present in the courtroom. In addition, the District Attorney's Office now has two facility dogs who are able to attend court proceedings with victims to provide emotional support while testifying. These services are available to the child witness before and after court proceedings to help deal with the trauma associated with witnessing the crime and appearing in court to testify against the parent accused of committing the crime. During and at the conclusion of court proceedings, Victim Services Representatives provide the child witness and guardians with referrals for counseling, relocation, and victims of crime financial assistance.

FVD deputies also collaborate with multidisciplinary teams to improve the understanding of child abuse and endangerment cases and child homicide cases. FVD deputies are active members of numerous Inter-Agency Council on Child Abuse and Neglect (ICAN) Committees. The Head Deputy co-chairs the monthly Death Review meetings.

Additionally, the District Attorney's Office coordinates monthly meetings of the Domestic Violence Death Review Team, which often explore cases where children are victims or witnesses in intimate partner homicide cases.

The District Attorney's Office is also instrumental in proposing and reviewing new legislation. In 2017, the District Attorney's Office proposed legislation to amend PC §1202.4(f)(3)(F) to add PC §§ 288.5 and 288.7 to the list of crimes that allow child sexual assault victims to collect restitution for non-economic losses.

The District Attorney's Office also drafted legislation regarding the issuance of domestic violence protective orders to close a loophole in the law and help ensure protection for children. Before the legislative amendment in 2014, existing law allowed criminal courts to issue protective orders for up to 10 years in domestic violence cases to protect the named victim in the case but failed to take into account the children who were present during the incident. The amendment expanded the judge's authority to issue protective orders that included children who were present during the domestic violence.







In 2010, FVD and the Sex Crimes Division reviewed and made recommendations on a significant number of bills aimed at protecting victims of intimate partner battering and child abuse and neglect. Previously, attorneys from the District Attorney's Office and the Los Angeles County Counsel's Office partnered to draft legislation regarding information-sharing between certain government agencies. ICAN also co-sponsored the legislation. AB 1687 amended Civil Code §56.10 by adding §56.103. The law allows a healthcare provider to disclose medical information to a county social worker, probation officer, or any other person who is legally authorized to have custody or care of a minor for the purpose of coordinating healthcare services and medical treatment provided to the minor. In 2010, legislation was proposed to reduce the number of people necessary to form a multidisciplinary team so that critical information regarding child abuse and neglect may be shared with key people faster. The proposed legislation became law in 2011.

The majority of a FVD deputy's duties involves the vertical prosecution of criminal cases. In the course of their work, FVD deputies utilize a number of tools available to them including the Family and Children's Index (FCI) to determine what, if any, contacts the child victim or his or her family has had with other Los Angeles County agencies. FCI is a pointer system developed with ICAN and other county partners to ensure that critical information may be shared as deemed appropriate by each respective agency with other agencies to ensure child safety.

In addition to the work done in the courtroom, the DDAs in the unit speak to various government agencies and community-based organizations on the topic of mandated reporting. Under the Child Abuse and Neglect Reporting Act (PC §11164, et seq.), people in specified professions must report child abuse where they have reasonable objective suspicions that it is occurring. Failure of the mandated reporter to file the necessary report with law enforcement or the child protective agency may result in misdemeanor prosecution. The attorneys in FVD also train deputies in other units within the District Attorney's Office to ensure the uniform treatment of child abuse cases.

DDAs who handle crimes with children as victims or witnesses also access the Electronic Suspected Child Abuse Report System (ESCARS).

## **ESCARS Unit**

In 2015, the District Attorney's Office committed to the importance of the Electronic Suspected Child Abuse Report System with the creation of the ESCARS Unit. The ESCARS Unit is a specialized unit within the Family Violence Division; consisting of four paralegals and a Deputy-in-Charge. With this expansion, the District Attorney's Office was better able to universally audit ESCARS compliance by law enforcement, Deputy District Attorneys, and the Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS). The creation of the ESCARS Unit enabled the District Attorney's Office to increase by 30 percent, its capacity to review/audit Suspected Child Abuse Reports (SCARs).

The Unit is responsible for training law enforcement and DDAs on the system throughout Los Angeles In 2020, there were 41,294 SCARs County. uploaded to ESCARS; 12,689 were law enforcement generated. The total number of SCARs generated in 2020 was significantly lower than prior years, due to the Covid-19 Pandemic. The District Attorney's Office audits the use of the system to ensure that this innovative tool is being used effectively and in a timely manner by law enforcement agencies and prosecutors. The formation of the unit not only facilitated the expansion of the auditing process, but also enabled the District Attorney's Office to recognize where data-sharing could be further improved.

One such improvement in 2018, was the ESCARS Unit spearheading and facilitating the addition of the Los Angeles City Attorney's Office (LACAO) to the system. LACAO files approximately 1,557 child abuse cases a year. Of the approximate 1,557 filed cases, a large majority have a corresponding SCAR in ESCARS. Yet, none of the City Attorney's cases were documented in ESCARS. The ESCARS Unit recognized that if ESCARS was truly an information-sharing database, then the next logical progression would be the inclusion of LACAO to ESCARS. An Operational Agreement has been signed by the District Attorney and the City Attorney to solidify the inclusion of LACAO to ESCARS.

ESCARS is a collaborative database and an electronic system available to all law enforcement agencies in Los Angeles County, DCFS social workers, prosecutors in the District Attorney's Office, and now city prosecutors.



# **Complex Child Abuse Section**

In September 2016, the Complex Child Abuse Section (CCAS) of the Family Violence Division was created to enable prosecutors to better protect children at risk, prosecute those who abuse them, and safeguard the integrity of the convictions obtained. The section was the natural outgrowth of increased recognition that abusive head trauma cases and cases involving severe abuse and neglect causing death pose many challenges. In these cases, the cause of death or catastrophic injuries are complicated and a differential diagnosis must be applied to rule out all other possible causes in order to arrive at a homicide. Such challenges mandate that prosecutors be prepared to handle an array of medical and legal issues and adeptly respond to the mounting defense attacks to the underlying facts and science in these cases.

CCAS consists of a Deputy-in-Charge, two trial deputies, and a paralegal. The section handles all cases involving suspected abusive head trauma in a child under the age of eight, whether or not the injuries result in death. The section also handles any death of a child under the age of eight involving medically complex causes of death or time of death issues.

CCAS prosecutors receive specialized training in abusive head trauma and child abuse homicides. They utilize a multidisciplinary team approach, working closely with detectives, child abuse pediatricians, and social workers from the beginning of an investigation to the end of a criminal proceeding. The potential for maximizing positive outcomes in these cases are greatly enhanced because all team members are able to share the facts of the case and medical findings, and address and resolve any issues in real time in a confidential setting.

Since its formation, CCAS has fielded hundreds of calls for assistance from law enforcement and child abuse pediatricians on new cases in the initial stages of an investigation. The section also reviews, files, declines, resolves, and takes to jury trial complex child abuse cases. CCAS prosecutors have provided training on child physical abuse, abusive head trauma, and child homicides to law enforcement and prosecutors locally, nationally, and internationally. They regularly attend and contribute valuable insight at ICAN Child Death Review Team meetings and Suspected Child Abuse and Neglect hospital meetings. CCAS prosecutors have also

done presentations with child abuse pediatricians, law enforcement, and social workers at various child abuse summits and conferences.

## **SEX CRIMES DIVISION**

The Sex Crimes Division is comprised of four separate sections: the Sex Crimes Section, the Sexually Violent Predator Unit, Stuart House, and the Human Sex Trafficking Section.

#### Sex Crimes Section

DDAs assigned to the Sex Crimes Section vertically prosecute all felony sexual assaults that occur in the Central Judicial District. DDAs handle cases involving both child and adult victims and work closely with victim advocates from our Bureau of Victim Services who are specially trained to work with sexual assault victims.

In cases alleging sexual abuse of a child, forensic interviews are often conducted and videotaped. The DDA and investigating officer watch the interview through a one-way window and are able to monitor the interview and provide input to the forensic interviewer. This method reduces both the number of people present in the interview as well as the number of times the minor victim has to be interviewed. In cases where a forensic interview is not conducted, the assigned DDA will interview the victim prior to a filing decision being made. This interview is important to both build rapport with the child as well as establish the number and types of charges that will be filed.

Since many cases of child sexual abuse are committed by individuals in the child's home, DCFS and Dependency Court are often involved with a child who is a named victim in a criminal prosecution. The DDA vertically prosecuting the criminal case obtains relevant DCFS records and often keeps the social worker apprised of the status of the criminal proceedings.

The DDA assigned to the case is responsible for making the filing decision and makes all court appearances, from arraignment through jury trial. Contact between the DDA and the victim is maintained throughout the proceedings and any potential settlement of the case is discussed with the victim's parent or guardian and the victim herself or himself, depending upon age. At the time of sentencing, the victim and/or the victim's parents







or guardian are entitled by law to address the court regarding the impact the defendant's crimes have had on the child.

# Sexually Violent Predator Unit

The Sexually Violent Predator (SVP) Unit handles cases in which the District Attorney's Office seeks a civil commitment to a mental hospital for individuals who have been convicted of a delineated sexually violent crime against an adult or child victim, and who also have a current diagnosed mental disorder that makes it likely that they will engage in sexually violent predatory behavior if they are released into the community.

A true finding by a jury under SVP law results in the offender receiving an indeterminate commitment to a state hospital where he or she will be given the opportunity to participate in a mental health program designed to confront and treat the disorder. The offender is evaluated annually for release into the community. If it is determined that the offender presents a continued threat to the community, the SVP commitment will continue.

### Stuart House

Stuart House is a state-of-the-art multidisciplinary center located on the UCLA Santa Monica Medical Center Campus. Its staff includes a Deputy-in-Charge and four DDAs as well as law enforcement officers, certified social workers, child advocates, therapists, and forensic interviewers. House handles cases involving sexual assaults committed on children under the age of 18. Each case is vertically prosecuted by the assigned DDA. Sexual assault examinations are performed at the neighboring Santa Monica Rape Treatment Center. The Stuart House model significantly reduces trauma to the child by utilizing forensic interviewing and a team approach for investigation and prosecution of the case and wrap around services for the victim, including counseling on the premises. Additional facility features include a mock courtroom, where child victims can attend "court school" before they testify in criminal proceedings, and special rooms for group, play and art therapy. The presence of all team members at one location provides enhanced communication and coordination to ensure less trauma to these very young victims.

# **Human Sex Trafficking Section**

Any person who actually or attempts to cause, induce or persuade a minor to engage in a commercial sex act is guilty of human sex trafficking of a minor. The commercial sexual exploitation of children is a multi-billion-dollar-a-year criminal enterprise. These children are recruited from all over Los Angeles County, the State, and the country, especially from bus and train stations, schools, group homes, and through social media. Many are runaways and have gone through the dependency system.

The District Attorney's Office remains committed to a comprehensive approach to combating human sex trafficking. This includes not only prosecuting the trafficker to the fullest extent of the law, but also holding those accountable who purchase sex from children. To address the prevalence of human sex trafficking in Los Angeles County, the District Attorney's Office created the Human Trafficking Unit in 2014, which was expanded after further funding was secured in October 2016 and renamed the Human Sex Trafficking Section (HSTS). The HSTS consists of a Deputy-in-Charge and three trial deputies who are all specially trained in prosecuting sex trafficking cases. To further target and prevent human sex trafficking, a DAI serves on the Los Angeles Regional Human Trafficking Task Force that investigates human trafficking cases and seeks to rescue and recover victims of exploitation and trafficking. (Human labor trafficking is prosecuted by the Organized Crime Division of the District Attorney's Office.) The District Attorney's Office has also dedicated victim-witness assistance advocates who have specialized training to support human trafficking victims.

All human sex trafficking cases are vertically prosecuted. This allows for the most effective and efficient prosecution while minimizing further trauma to victims. Vertical prosecution allows a specially-trained and experienced prosecutor to handle all aspects of a case from filing to sentencing. This is a best practice approach followed by the District Attorney's Office in cases involving vulnerable victims.

The District Attorney's Office maintains its commitment to collaborate with our law enforcement partners and other county agencies in order to better serve the needs of commercially sexually exploited children. A Deputy District Attorney from the HSTS is assigned to the Los Angeles Regional Human Trafficking Task Force. The HSTS works closely with our law enforcement partners to identify,



rescue, and support victims of human trafficking while focusing on prosecuting and convicting their exploiters and traffickers in an effort to protect both current and future victims. The District Attorney's Office continues to work with other agencies to facilitate providing mental health and medical services, counseling, and other support to victims of sexual exploitation and trafficking.

The HSTS also conducts trainings for law enforcement, prosecutors, advocates, and the general public about human sex trafficking. Training helps to promote an understanding of what human sex trafficking in Los Angeles County truly looks like so that victims can be recovered and not return to the life of commercial sexual exploitation and trafficking.

There is a human trafficking database which tracks the human trafficking cases filed in Los Angeles County.

# BRANCH AND AREA OPERATIONS VICTIM IMPACT PROGRAM

A majority of the DDAs assigned to vertically prosecute cases in which children are victimized are assigned directly to Branch Offices with a caseload that covers both adult and child victims. The Branch and Area Victim Impact Program (VIP) obtains justice for victims through vertical prosecution of VIP category cases, which include family violence; sex crimes; stalking; elder and dependent adult physical and mental abuse, endangerment, and financial abuse; hate crimes; human sex trafficking; and child physical and mental abuse and endangerment. VIP represents a firm commitment to ensure well-trained and qualified deputies are assigned to vertically prosecute crimes against individuals, often targeted as a result of their vulnerability. The goal of the program is to obtain justice for victims while holding offenders justly accountable for their criminal acts. At each of the 10 Branch Offices, the District Attorney appoints an experienced DDA as the VIP Deputy-in-Charge (DIC) to manage the DDAs assigned to VIP. The VIP DIC works closely with the assigned DDAs to ensure that all cases are appropriately prepared and prosecuted. All VIP DDAs receive enhanced training in the investigation and prosecution of VIP category crimes, current legal issues, forensic evidence, potential defenses, and trial tactics. DDAs assigned to VIP in the Antelope Valley, Compton, Long Beach, Norwalk, Pasadena, San Fernando, Van Nuys, Torrance, Pomona, and Airport Branch Offices also specialize in the prosecution of cases

involving child victims as part of multidisciplinary teams.

The VIP DICs and Victim Impact Program Advisory Working Group (VIP Advisory Working Group) meet every other month to discuss trends in the prosecution of VIP category cases, new laws, and best practices. Training is provided on developments in the law and topical subjects. The VIP Advisory Working Group is comprised of subject matter experts on VIP category crimes. Head deputies, assistant head deputies from the Family Violence Division and the Sex Crimes Division, as well as deputies-in-charge from VIP, the Human Sex Trafficking Section, Complex Child Abuse Section, ESCARS Unit, Elder Abuse Section, Stalking and Threat Assessment Team, and the Juvenile Division participate in the meetings and share their expertise on pertinent topics. The VIP Advisory Working Group's goals are:

- Review, recommend, and implement office policies and procedures, and best practices for VIP category cases;
- 2. Analyze VIP case suitability criteria;
- 3. Review VIP statistics and staffing for each branch office;
- 4. Develop expertise within VIP and disseminate that expertise to Line Operations; and
- Identify and advocate on behalf of the VIP community various emerging VIP category crime-related law enforcement/prosecution issues such as human sex trafficking.

The VIP Advisory Working Group has nine committees:

- 1. Policies and Procedures;
- Colleges;
- 3. VIP Legislation;
- 4. DIC Meetings/Agendas;
- 5. VIP Manual;
- 6. Human Sex Trafficking;
- 7. Child Abuse Multidisciplinary Team Coordination; and
- 8. Elder/Dependent Adult Abuse Case Reporting System.

The committees are comprised of a chairperson and members with interest and expertise on various topics. The information gleaned and recommendations made from each committee are presented to the working group members and executive management staff to enhance the prosecution of VIP category cases.



#### **MULTIDISCIPLINARY CENTERS IN LOS ANGELES COUNTY**

Best practice for cases involving child victims is to pursue a multidisciplinary team (MDT) approach to the investigation as well as any interview of a child. A multidisciplinary response to child abuse allegations typically includes representation from law enforcement, DCFS, the District Attorney's Office (both prosecution and the Bureau of Victim Services), and mental health and medical professionals. The purpose of MDT and interagency collaboration is to coordinate intervention and share information that optimizes results and reduces potential trauma to children and their families. The District Attorney's Office is an active participant in the MDTs detailed below:

- Children's Advocacy Centers (CAC) as defined in Penal Code §11166.4;
- Family Justice Centers (FJC) as defined in Penal Code §13750(c):
- Sexual Assault Response Teams (SART) as defined in Penal Code §13898;
- Suspected Child Abuse and Neglect (SCAN) Teams as defined in Penal Code §11167.5(b)(7);
- Child Death Review Teams as defined in Penal Code §11174.32.

#### Children's Advocacy Centers (CAC)

Children's Advocacy Centers provide forensic interviews of children in addition to other services. A CAC is a child-friendly facility that provides a coordinated, evidence-based response by MDT members to investigate abuse, help children heal from abuse, and hold offenders accountable. A CAC's mission is to protect the child, provide justice, The National Children's and promote healing. Alliance is the national association and accrediting body for CACs. Currently there are seven child forensic interview centers in nine different locations throughout Los Angeles County:

- Inner Circle Children's Advocacy Center in Lancaster and Monterey Park;
- Harbor-UCLA Medical Center K.I.D.S. Hub Clinic in Torrance:
- Martin Luther King, Jr. Pediatric Hub CAC in Los Angeles;
- Strength United Family Justice Center/Center for Assault Treatment Services (CATS) in Van Nuys;

- Stuart House Rape Treatment Center Santa Monica UCLA Medical Center;
- The Children's Advocacy Center for Child Abuse Assessment and Treatment in Covina and Los Alamitos: and
- USC Gould School of Law Child Interviewing Lab in Monterey Park.

#### Center for Assault Treatment Services

The Center for Assault Treatment Services (CATS) is operated out of the Northridge Hospital Medical Center and is the only designated Sexual Assault Response Team in the San Fernando and Santa Clarita Valleys. CATS' mission is to provide compassionate, comprehensive care to adult and child victims of sexual abuse in a supportive and comfortable environment through a coordinated collaborative effort. Results obtained from specialized forensic interviews and evidence collection conducted by nurses and nurse practitioners, with advanced training as Sexual Assault Examiners, are provided to MDT members. In addition, CATS medical personnel provide follow-up treatment and examination for victims and are court qualified experts who are available for consultations and court testimony. CATS is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week and is utilized by federal and local law enforcement.

#### Children's Advocacy Center for Child Abuse Assessment and Treatment

The Children's Advocacy Center for Child Abuse and Treatment in the city of Covina (CAC Covina) opened its doors in 2004 and is accredited by the National Children's Alliance. The Los Alamitos satellite center opened in 2018. The CAC Covina is a multidisciplinary, non-profit agency that provides forensic interviews of children who witness criminal acts and/or are victims of sexual or physical abuse. While these interviews are being conducted, prosecutors, law enforcement officers, and DCFS watch via closed circuit TV and provide input for follow-up questioning. This MDT approach allows each agency to fulfill their respective mission, yet minimizes the number of times the child must be interviewed

The forensic interviews are conducted in a childfriendly and culturally-sensitive manner by trained professionals and are digitally recorded. In addition to attending the actual interview, prosecutors attend routine case review sessions. The CAC

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Covina facilities have also been used to assist in the preparation and presentation of victim impact statements in court by young victims of child abuse.

In an effort to minimize trauma to children, the CAC Covina also uses therapy dogs to greet and wait with children and their families. Therapy dogs not only provide emotional support, but also empower victims.

#### Harbor-UCLA Child Crisis Center

The Harbor-UCLA Child Crisis Center, now known as the K.I.D.S. Hub, opened as a model project of the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors in 1986. It provides services to children from birth through age 18 who are victims of physical, sexual, or emotional abuse. It is designed to serve residents of the 22 cities within the South Bay area of Los Angeles County, but will assist any county resident.

The K.I.D.S. Hub provides state-of-the-art expert assessment while reducing trauma to child victims and their families. Expert medical evaluation for children involved with DCFS, acute sexual assault examinations, and forensic examinations for physical abuse, as well as, non-acute sexual abuse examinations are offered. Experienced professional forensic interviewers with specialized training interview the victims in a non-threatening, child-friendly environment, enabling the investigating officer, assigned DDA, and social workers to observe the entire interview behind a one-way mirror. The forensic interviews are video recorded.

There is an on-site DCFS Children's Social Worker and Department of Mental Health therapist. DDAs and law enforcement are not housed at the facility but attend the forensic interviews for their assigned cases. Child victims receive a mental health screening and linkage by mental health therapists. Additionally, child abuse pediatricians are available to consult on child physical and sexual abuse issues and often provide training in the community.

### Family Justice Center

A Family Justice Center is a multiagency and multidisciplinary service center that provides services to victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, elder or dependent adult abuse, or human trafficking in one location in order to reduce the number of times victims must tell their story, reduce the number of places victims must go for help, and

increase access to services and support for victims and their children. The core concept is to provide one place where victims can go to talk to an advocate, plan for their safety, interview with a police officer, meet with a prosecutor, receive medical assistance, receive information on shelters, and get help with transportation.

In 2009, the District Attorney's Office participated in a collaborative effort to establish the first FJC in Los Angeles County in San Fernando. The FJC helps people who have experienced domestic violence, sexual assault, and child abuse. FJC MDT partners include law enforcement, CATS, DCFS, the District Attorney's Office, the City Attorney's Office, the Department of Mental Health and post-trauma treatment agencies, and a legal assistance organization. Victims who visit the FJC receive crisis intervention in a one-stop-shop, non-threatening, comfortable, safe environment which is welcoming to them and their children.

In 2018, the FJC Central Bureau, near the Los Angeles County USC Medical Center downtown campus, opened its doors, offering similar services to victims of domestic violence and sexual assault.

#### Sexual Assault Response Teams (SART)

A Sexual Assault Response Team is a coordinated interdisciplinary intervention model between law enforcement; crime lab; prosecution; and medical and advocacy experts to meet the forensic needs of the criminal justice system and the medical and emotional needs of sexual assault victims, including children. SART provides a forensic medical exam of children. The mission of SART is to assist victims of sexual assault by offering them a sensitive and competent multidisciplinary response, to support efforts to restore well-being to the victims, and to bring perpetrators to justice.

There are 11 SART sites in Los Angeles County and each SART may consist of different MDT members. The components of a SART exam include obtaining a detailed history of events, documenting physical injury, forensic evidence collection including DNA and trace evidence, healthcare treatment and referrals, and crisis intervention and referrals. SARTs meet on a regular basis for case review and may be co-located at a CAC or FJC. DDAs often participate in these meetings. The Los Angeles County Department of Health has developed SART center standards.



# Suspected Child Abuse and Neglect (SCAN) Teams

Suspected Child Abuse and Neglect teams are comprised of child abuse medical experts, hospital social workers, children social workers, law enforcement, prosecutors, and local child advocacy groups and other service providers. SCAN teams meet at hospitals on a regular basis to discuss suspected child abuse cases. Their main objectives are to review cases of child abuse and neglect with emphasis on identification, assessment, and treatment planning. Medical professionals provide expert opinions on the causes of injuries and treatment; social workers provide family history and dependency proceeding status; law enforcement provides investigation updates; prosecutors provide information about legal issues; and advocates discuss service options. The team also examines ways to prevent any additional abuse or neglect to the child and siblings in the home. DDAs regularly participate in SCAN meetings hosted by child abuse pediatricians in hospitals throughout the county.

#### **JUVENILE DIVISION**

The District Attorney's Juvenile Division is charged with the responsibility of petitioning the Delinquency Court for action concerning juvenile offenders who perpetrate crimes in Los Angeles County. This mandate falls under Welfare and Institutions Code (WIC) §602. The Juvenile Division is under the auspices of the Bureau of Specialized Prosecutions. It is divided into seven geographical areas. The offices include Antelope Valley Juvenile, Eastlake Juvenile, Pomona Juvenile, Sylmar Juvenile, Compton Juvenile, Inglewood Juvenile, and Long Beach Juvenile. The Juvenile Division works with local schools, law enforcement, the Los Angeles County Probation Department (Probation), the Los Angeles County Public Defender's Office, and the Delinquency Court to monitor and mentor youths who appear to be on the threshold of involvement in serious criminal activity.

#### School Attendance Review Board

A minor's first contact with the juvenile justice system is often handled informally. For instance, the Hearing Officers and Deputy District Attorneys from the District Attorney's ACT, Juvenile Offender Intervention Network, and Truancy Mediation Programs work with school districts' School Attendance Review

Boards (SARB(s)) and School Attendance Review Teams to combat truancy. When students and/or their parents violate school attendance laws, the matters are often referred to the District Attorney's Office for a truancy mediation hearing. The goal of the mediation process is to return truants to school while holding them responsible for their actions. In lieu of immediate referral for prosecution, the student and parents are given an opportunity to enter into a District Attorney School Attendance Contract. By entering into the contract, students and parents agree to immediately cease unexcused absences and tardies, to correct behavioral problems, and to adhere to SARB directives and other hearing officer resolutions.

#### Juvenile Offender Intervention Network

The District Attorney also recognizes the need for early intervention for juvenile offenders arrested for non-violent offenses. To that end, the District Attorney's Office has implemented the Juvenile Offender Intervention Network (JOIN). The plan is simple: divert young offenders from the juvenile court process into a program that would offer immediate intervention and accountability as an alternative to juvenile court prosecution. To participate in the program, parents and youthful offenders agree to the terms of a JOIN contract. In the contract, juvenile offenders acknowledge responsibility for their acts and agree to pay restitution, attend school regularly, maintain passing grades, remain arrestfree, and perform community service. Parents agree to attend parenting classes and families are referred to group counseling. Cases are closely monitored by the hearing officer for up to one year. If the minor commits another offense or fails to adhere to the JOIN contract, the original case is referred for prosecution.

JOIN is a highly effective program. It aims to address the root causes of the delinquent behavior. One example is JOIN's partnership with the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Los Angeles (SPCALA). The SPCALA, in collaboration with the District Attorney's Office and the Los Angeles County Superior Court, designed a specialized curriculum to instill compassion, build self-esteem and help break the cycle of violence.

The curriculum is part of the Teaching Love & Compassion for Juvenile Offenders Program (JTLC). JTLC helps towards making healthier and more compassionate life choices. Students learn

State of Child Abuse



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that compassion and kindness are effective ways to form lasting bonds and communicate effectively.

JOIN offers intense supervision and monitoring of the juvenile. In a two-year study, approximately 13 percent of all youth who participated in JOIN reoffended, meaning 87 percent did not reoffend.

#### **Informal Probation**

Minors can also be placed on informal probation by the Probation Department prior to intervention by the court. After an arrest, a minor can be:

- Counseled and released;
- Placed in informal programs through the school, law enforcement agency, or Probation;
- Referred to the District Attorney's Office for filing consideration pursuant to WIC §626; or
- Referred by the District Attorney's Office to Probation for informal processing under WIC §652.

In many instances, a deputy probation officer (DPO) assigned to review a case will decide to continue to handle the matter informally and reserve sending the referral to the District Attorney's Office for filing consideration. If the minor complies with the terms of informal supervision, the case does not come to the attention of the District Attorney's Office or the Delinquency Court; if the minor fails to comply, the DPO could then decide to refer the case for filing consideration.

A minor is ineligible for informal probation with the Probation Department if he or she was arrested for:

- Sale or possession for sale of a controlled substance;
- Possession of narcotics on school grounds;
- Assault with a deadly weapon upon a school employee;
- Possession of a firearm or weapon at school;
- A crime listed in WIC §707(b);
- An offense involving gang activity or requiring restitution in excess of \$1,000; or
- If the minor has:
  - o Previously been placed on informal probation and has committed a new offense; o Is 14 or older and has been arrested for a felony; or
  - o Is 13 or younger and has a previousfelony arrest (WIC §§652 and 653.5).

#### WIC §241.1 Dual Status Protocol

In 2004, the Legislature passed AB 129 which permits counties to develop a system where a youth can simultaneously be under the formal jurisdiction of the Delinquency Court and of the Dependency Court provided there is agreement among the Probation Department, DCFS, and the Juvenile Court. In 2007, the County of Los Angeles drafted and implemented the WIC §241.1 Dual Status Protocol (Protocol) and initiated a pilot project in the Pasadena Delinquency Court. The Protocol targeted 300 wards who sustained a first-time arrest, and a 602 petition was filed by the District Attorney's Office in the Pasadena Delinquency Court requesting the youth be made a ward of the Delinquency Court. Through the Protocol and pilot project, stakeholders in the Los Angeles juvenile justice system, including the District Attorney's Office, hope to:

- Enhance public safety by providing better services to dependent youth and their families;
- Reduce the number of dependent youths who become 602 wards of the Delinquency Court;
- Better serve those who do become 602 wards;
   and
- Limit their time as 602 wards by maintaining Dependency Court jurisdiction where appropriate.

During 2010, the 241.1 Pilot Project was extended to Eastlake Delinquency Court. All seven delinquency court locations now have a single court dedicated to the 241.1 protocol process. As part of this expansion, the District Attorney's Office is also ensuring that 300 wards who are otherwise eligible for diversion consideration under the JOIN program are identified early and properly referred. In order to ensure their success in the JOIN program, DCFS has agreed to provide continued support of the diverted youth through the year-long JOIN program. This effort requires collaboration of the District Attorney's Office with other stakeholders in the juvenile justice system, including DCFS, the Department of Mental Health, and the minor's dependency attorney.

#### **Delinquency Court Proceedings**

If a minor is delivered by law enforcement to probation personnel at a juvenile hall facility, the DPO to whom the minor is presented determines whether the minor remains detained. There are two Juvenile Halls in Los Angeles County, both of which are under the supervision of the Probation



Department. They are located in Sylmar (Barry J. Nidorf Juvenile Hall) and East Los Angeles (Central Juvenile Hall). If a minor 14 years of age or older is accused of personally using a firearm or having committed an offense listed under WIC §707(b), detention must continue until the minor is brought before a judicial officer. In all other instances, the DPO can only continue to detain the minor if one or more of the following is true:

- The minor lacks proper and effective parental
- The minor is destitute and lacking the necessities of home:
- The minor's home is unfit;
- It is a matter of immediate and urgent necessity for the protection of the minor or a reasonable necessity for the protection of the person or property of another;
- The minor is likely to flee;
- The minor has violated a court order; or
- The minor is physically dangerous to the public because of a mental or physical deficiency, disorder, or abnormality (if the minor is in need of mental health treatment, the court must notify the Department of Mental Health).

If one or more of the above factors are present but the DPO deems that a 24-hour secure detention facility is not necessary, the minor may be placed on home supervision (WIC §628.1). Under this program, the minor is released to a parent, guardian, or responsible relative pursuant to a written agreement that sets forth terms and conditions relating to standards of behavior to be adhered to during the period of release. Conditions of release could include curfew, school attendance requirements, behavioral standards in the home, and any other term deemed to be in the best interest of the minor for his or her own protection or the protection of the person or property of another. Any violation of a term of home supervision may result in placement in a secure detention facility subject to a review by the Delinquency Court at a detention hearing.

If the minor is detained, a DDA must decide whether to file a petition within 48 hours of arrest, excluding weekends and holidays. A detention hearing must same criteria as previously weighed by the DPO in making the initial decision to detain the minor. There

is a statutory preference for release if reasonably appropriate (WIC §§202 and 635). At the conclusion of the detention hearing, the court may release the minor to a parent or guardian, place the minor on home supervision, or detain the minor in a secure facility.

In November 2016, the California Electorate enacted Proposition 57, which eliminated direct filing of a minor's case in adult court. A minor may only be transferred to adult court jurisdiction after a petition is filed and a motion to transfer to adult court is heard by the juvenile court having jurisdiction over the minor. In 2018, Senate Bill 1391 amended WIC §707 by removing the court's authority to transfer minors who commit crimes at the ages of 14 or 15 to adult court jurisdiction. The law became effective January 1, 2019. WIC §707 subparagraph (a) now governs the types of cases and the burden of proof in motions to transfer to adult court.

If a minor's case remains in juvenile court, the minor has a right to an adjudication. The adjudication is similar to a court trial in adult court. Minors do not have a right to a jury trial. The minor does have a right to counsel, to confront and cross-examine the witnesses against him or her, and the privilege against self-incrimination. The Delinquency Court must be convinced beyond a reasonable doubt that the minor committed the offense alleged in the petition. The DDA has the burden of proof in presenting evidence to the court. If the court has been convinced beyond a reasonable doubt of the allegations in the petition, the petition is found true. If the court is not convinced, the petition is found not true. There is no finding of "guilty" or "not guilty." If the minor is age 13 or younger, proof that the minor had the capacity to commit the crime must be presented by the DDA as such individuals are not presumed to know right from wrong. For example, if a 12-yearold is accused of a theft offense, it is not presumed that the minor knew it was wrong to steal. The DDA must present evidence that the minor knew the conduct committed was wrong. This burden can be met by calling a witness to establish that this minor knew that it was wrong to steal. The witness can be the minor's parent or a police officer or school official who can testify that the minor appreciated that it was wrong to steal.

If the petition is found true by the court, a disposition hearing is then held to determine the disposition consistent with the best interests of the minor and the interests of public safety. It may include punishment

be held before a judicial officer within 24 hours of filing (WIC §§ 631(a) and 632). When a minor appears before a judicial officer for a detention hearing, the Delinquency Court must consider the



that is consistent with the rehabilitative objectives of WIC §202(b). Disposition alternatives available to the court include:

- Home on probation (HOP);
- Restitution:
- A brief period of incarceration in juvenile hall as an alternative to a more serious commitment;
- Drug testing;
- · Restrictions on the minor's driving privilege;
- Suitable placement;
- Placement in a camp supervised by the Probation Department;
- Placement in a Secure Youth Treatment Facility (SYTF) run by the Probation Department; and
- Placement in the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation, Division of Juvenile Justice until July 2023, when it permanently closes.

In 2018, Senate Bill 439 amended WIC §601 and §602 to prohibit the prosecution of minors under the age of 12 unless the minor commits murder or certain forcible sex crimes. The amendments became operative January 1, 2019.

#### MAJOR NARCOTICS DIVISION

In order to disrupt and dismantle cartels and drug trafficking organizations in Los Angeles County, the District Attorney's Office created the Major Narcotics Division (MND). The division is comprised of specially-trained prosecutors who vertically prosecute significant narcotics trafficking operations in collaboration with federal, state, and local law enforcement agencies and task forces.

MND attorneys investigate, prosecute, and resolve significant narcotics trafficking cases using a variety of tools, including wiretaps. Wiretaps are a vital and effective tool against organized crime and cartel-related activities. MND deputies train Southern California peace officers with P.O.S.T. certified wiretap trainings to ensure compliance with laws. MND is responsible for processing all stateauthorized wiretaps for the District Attorney's Office, including non-narcotics wiretaps to investigate crimes such as murder, human trafficking, and kidnapping for ransom. MND also serves as a resource for other sophisticated electronic surveillance methods. Drug cartels traffic thousands of kilograms of narcotics into Los Angeles County and billions of dollars of narcotics proceeds out of Los Angeles County every year. These deadly drugs find their

way into residential neighborhoods where children and adults are endangered. Not only are children and families at risk from the hazards relating to the use and abuse of illegal narcotics, but also from the violence associated with narcotics transactions where weapons are often involved. MND deputies lecture on a variety of topics to attorneys, judges and law enforcement.

### More Drug Deaths Than Vietnam War Casualties

In September 2017, CNN reported that more American lives have been lost to drugs than the 58,000 U.S. military casualties during the Vietnam War. Drug overdose deaths were predicted to reach an all-time high of 71,600 in 2017. In 2016, approximately 11.8 million Americans misused opioids.

Opioids include prescription drugs, such as hydrocodone and oxycodone, as well as illegal drugs, such as heroin and fentanyl. Fatal overdoses related to heroin are skyrocketing. In 2002, there were 2,089 heroin deaths. In 2016, there were an estimated 13,219 heroin deaths – a 533 percent increase.

#### **Prescription Drug Overdoses and Deaths**

In response to epidemic prescription drug overdoses and deaths throughout the United States, the District Attorney's Office established a team of MND prosecutors to aggressively investigate and prosecute doctors and prescription providers that divert prescription drugs that endanger the lives of others in order to hold them accountable for their actions. In October 2015, this team of MND prosecutors convicted a Rowland Heights doctor of three counts of second-degree murder and 24 prescription-related felonies for her involvement in prescribing high levels of narcotics to young men. which caused numerous overdoses and deaths. This landmark case received national attention and was the first such conviction of its kind in the United States.

The number of opioid prescriptions dropped after the U.S. Center on Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) issued opioid prescribing guidelines in early 2016. This resulted in doctors prescribing fewer opioids as well as insurers providing less coverage for opioids. Many experts have pointed to the overprescribing of painkillers as the root of the U.S. opioid crisis, which has evolved into a heroin and



fentanyl crisis.

#### Illicit Opioids Such as Fentanyl

In Los Angeles County, 1,506 people died of opioidrelated overdoses in 2020; an 85 percent increase from 2019. This increase was driven primarily by the continued surge in deaths involving synthetic opioids, a category that includes fentanyl.

In August 2018, the Washington Post released an article entitled "Record overdose deaths in U.S. show danger of fentanyl, other synthetic drugs." The article stated, "For years, much of the focus has been on curbing the supply of illicit opioid painkillers from doctors and pharmacies to people who abuse the drugs. Now, there is some evidence that battle may be succeeding. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) indicated that deaths involving hydrocodone and oxycodone appear to have flattened out, offering possible hope that painkiller deaths might have peaked." However, during that same month and year, the New York Times reported that preliminary CDC data indicated that nearly 30,000 deaths in 2017 involved synthetic opioids. This is an increase of more than 9,000 deaths from the prior year.

Fentanyl is a synthetic opioid which is 50 times more potent than heroin, and 100 times more potent than morphine. A medical dose of fentanyl is about one microgram, which is equivalent to one millionth of a gram – similar to a few grains of table salt. However, fentanyl is also sold illegally for its euphoric effect, and has been used to lace controlled substances such as heroin, cocaine, and methamphetamine.

The Orange County Register wrote an article entitled "Users need to know that killer chemical lurks everywhere, say parents whose kids died from fentanyl." Synthetic opioid deaths are not accidental overdoses but poisonings. According to CDC, there are three waves of opioid overdose deaths. "The first wave began in the 1990s, with increased prescribing of opioids. Deaths from natural and semi-synthetic opioids have been increasing since at least 1999. The second wave began in 2010, with rapid increases in overdose deaths involving heroin. The third wave began in 2013, with significant increases in overdose deaths involving synthetic opioids, particularly those involving illicitly manufactured fentanyl. The market for illicit fentanyl continues to evolve, the CDC said, and the drug can now be found combined with heroin, counterfeit pills, cocaine and marijuana. The

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carnage is clearly related: All opioid-involved death rates decreased by 2% between 2017 and 2018. Prescription opioid-involved death rates decreased by 13.5%. Heroin-involved death rates decreased by 4%. But, synthetic opioid-involved death rates – fentanyl and its cousins – increased by 10%. All told, nearly a half-million people died from opioid overdoses between 1999 and 2018, the CDC said."

As a result, a team of prosecutors within MND are vertically prosecuting significant opioid related operations. The District Attorney's Office also created a web-based portal on its website to enable members from the public to submit complaints related to opioid trafficking and overprescribing. This web-based portal will aid the community with holding drug dealers, pharmacies, doctors, and others accountable for their actions and hopefully save lives in the process.

#### **Cannabis Operations Unit**

Due to the prevalence of illegal cannabis activities throughout Los Angeles County, the District Attorney's Office created the Cannabis Operations Unit (COU) within MND. The COU vertically prosecutes cannabis extraction laboratories that utilize volatile chemicals in the manufacturing process. The most common type of volatile extraction is flammable butane honey oil (BHO) laboratories that manufacture concentrated cannabis. Volatile cannabis extraction is generally simple to perform, cheap to execute, and likely to have a high profit margin. Because of this, it has become increasingly popular. In recent years extraction labs have become significantly larger and more sophisticated. While traditional BHO labs are still common, sophisticated large-scale extraction using chemicals like hexane and heptane are becoming more prevalent.

Due to the popularity of volatile cannabis extraction, the COU only prosecutes the most egregious laboratories in Los Angeles County that generally involve fires and explosions. Because of the recent increases is the scale and sophistication of these laboratories, the scale of the injury and destruction created by them has also increased significantly.

Some BHO cases involve decimated homes and buildings, severe injuries such as an amputated leg, and a few have resulted in death. The majority of fires and explosions occur in residential neighborhoods, putting children, pets, and adults at risk. COU files child endangerment and animal cruelty charges



when applicable in these cases.

The Los Angeles High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (LA IMPACT) Southern CA Drug Task Force (SCDTF) is a collocated, multi-agency enforcement initiative composed of criminal investigators assigned by participating federal, state and local law enforcement agencies in Los Angeles, Orange, San Bernardino and Riverside counties. Group 12 is the designated Clandestine Laboratory Response Team for LA IMPACT/SCDTF. In 2019, over 85 percent of all clandestine lab investigations by Group 12 were related to BHO labs. In September 2019, Group 12 investigated a deadly explosion and fire involving a sophisticated high production BHO lab that killed a lab worker. MND-COU filed murder charges against the owner of the BHO lab. It is the first BHO related lab explosion and death filed as a murder in Los Angeles County. MND-COU is currently prosecuting two separate murder cases involving deaths at BHO labs.

# OFFICE WIDE UNITS THE BUREAU OF VICTIM SERVICES

The Bureau of Victim Services (BVS)1 has Victim Services Representatives who work as governmental victim advocates assisting victims of crimes of violence and threats of violence throughout the criminal justice process. The advocate's primary responsibility is to provide support to the victim. BVS advocates have received special training in state programs regarding restitution for victims of crime and advocacy and support for victims of violence. BVS advocates also have specialized training in assisting victims of child physical and sexual abuse, and assisting child victims of human trafficking. The assistance advocates provide is essential in cases with a child victim. Often, the advocate will be the first person associated with the District Attorney's Office with whom the child will meet.

The BVS advocates have been an instrumental partner in the District Attorney's First Step Program, which provides assistance to victims of human trafficking.

The advocate explains each person's role in the

1. In August 2015, the Victim-Witness Assistance Program was renamed the Bureau of Victim Services to more accurately reflect the duties and responsibilities of the District Attorney's primary workforce to assist with lessening the emotional trauma, financial losses, and often devastating impact of crimes on the lives of victims, witnesses, and their families.

criminal justice process while working to establish a rapport with the child. The advocate is available to participate in the pre-filing interview to give emotional support for the child victim and to provide a friendly, nurturing sense of care. The advocate assists the non-offending parents or guardians of the child victim to connect with appropriate counseling for children who either witness or are victims of violent crimes in order to promote the mental and emotional health of the child.

The advocate provides court accompaniment to the child victim and the victim's family and assists in explaining the court process. Two essential tools that the advocate relies upon to explain the criminal court process are an activity book for children produced by the Administrative Office of the Courts entitled, "What's Happening in Court?," and a short educational video that illustrates what happens in court, the roles of court personnel, the rules associated with court procedures, and how the child's role is important to the court process. By using these tools, the child's experience in court becomes more understandable. Whenever possible, the advocate will take the child and the child's family into an empty courtroom. This opportunity will allow the child to visualize each person's role and where they are positioned in court. The child will have the opportunity to sit in the witness chair in order to become familiar with the courtroom setting and to ease any tensions and fears that may arise as a result of appearing in an unfamiliar setting. Other services offered by the advocate include but are not limited to the following:

- · Crisis intervention;
- Emergency assistance;
- Referrals for counseling, legal assistance and other resources;
- Assistance in filing for California Victim Compensation;
- Assistance obtaining restitution orders from a convicted defendant;
- Referrals and information to appropriate community agencies and resources; and
- Public presentations explaining services available to victims.

#### **DISTRICT ATTORNEY PUBLIC AFFAIRS DIVISION**

The Public Affairs Division offers resources within the District Attorney's Office in the areas of crime prevention and community engagement.



# PROJECT L.E.A.D. (LEGAL ENRICHMENT AND DECISION-MAKING)

Project LEAD is an effective law-related education program for fifth-graders in public schools. Established in 1993, the 20-week curriculum places prosecutors and other criminal justice system professionals inside the classroom for one hour a week to help students gain an understanding of the legal system and the reasons behind laws. The curriculum is designed to teach students techniques for resolving conflict and resisting peer pressure. Other lessons promote tolerance and respect for diversity. Project LEAD students gain important protective factors, which help them develop the skills and experience to evaluate challenging situations and make good decisions.

During the 2020-2021 school year, 120 facilitators taught the Project LEAD curriculum to approximately 1,300 students in 46 classrooms at 31 public schools throughout Los Angeles County.

Participating schools are listed below:

Cabaala	Districts	Ctudonto
Schools	Districts	Students
Alcott Elementary School	Pomona	65
Alta Loma Elementary School	Los Angeles	28
Ann Street Elementary School	Los Angeles	23
Breed Street Elementary School	Los Angeles	27
Castelar Elementary School	Los Angeles	25
Cesar Chavez Elementary School	Long Beach	30
Coliseum Street Elementary School	Los Angeles	22
Desert View Elementary School	Lancaster	105
Edison Elementary School	Long Beach	76
Gratts Learning Academy for Young Scholars	Los Angeles	75
Haddon STEAM Academy & Magnet	Los Angeles	30
Halldale Elementary School	Los Angeles	28
Huntington Drive Elementary School	Los Angeles	24
Jefferson Elementary School	Pasadena	34
Laurel Street Elementary School	Compton	34

Lorena Street Elementary School	Los Angeles	64
Lupin Hill Elementary School	Las Virgenes	34
Magnolia Avenue Elementary School	Los Angeles	24
Marlton School	Los Angeles	10
McKinley Elementary School	Compton	34
Ninth Street Elementary School	Los Angeles	62
O'Melveny Elementary School	Los Angeles	28
Patrick Henry Elementary School	Long Beach	140
Prisk Elementary School	Long Beach	30
Riviera Elementary School	Torrance	56
Sharp Avenue Elementary School	Los Angeles	28
Tibby Elementary School	Compton	34
Union Avenue Elementary School	Los Angeles	27
Victor Elementary School	Torrance	28
Walnut Elementary School	Walnut Valley	40
Walteria Elementary School	Torrance	54
Total Number of Students:	1,319	

#### **INFORMATIONAL MATERIALS**

The District Attorney's Office produces a wide variety of pamphlets to inform the public of its programs and services for crime victims and the community. Topics include domestic violence, child abuse, child abuse reporting, hate crimes, crime victims' rights, and a guide for navigating the criminal justice system. Pamphlets are available online at: <a href="mailto:da.lacounty.gov">da.lacounty.gov</a>.

#### **DATA GATHERING AND ANALYSIS**

In order to maximize accuracy in representing the work done by the District Attorney's Office in prosecuting cases involving child abuse and neglect, data is gathered based upon a case filing. When a case is filed, the case number represents one unit for data purposes. A case may, however, represent more than one defendant and more than one count; in cases where there is more than one count, more than one victim may be represented. This method was adopted to ensure that a single incident of criminal activity was not double counted. When a case is presented for filing to a prosecutor, it is submitted based upon the conduct of the perpetrator. If a single perpetrator has victimized more than one victim, all of the alleged criminal conduct is







contained under one case number. If a victim has been victimized on more than one occasion by a single perpetrator, the separate incidents will be represented by multiple counts contained under a single case number. A single incident, however, also may be represented by multiple counts; such counts might be filed in the alternative for a variety of reasons but could not result in a separate sentence for the defendant due to statutory double jeopardy prohibitions. If multiple defendants were involved in victimizing either a single victim or multiple victims, this is represented by a single case number.

Apriority list was established based upon seriousness of the offense (Figure 1) from which the data sought would be reflected under the most serious charge filed. In other words, if the most serious charge presented against the perpetrator was a homicide charge reflecting a child death, but additional charges were also presented and filed alleging child physical abuse or endangerment, then the conduct would be reflected only under the statistics gathered using PC §187 in the category of total filings (Figure 2). If, at the conclusion of the case, the Murder (PC §187) charge was dismissed for some reason but the case resulted in a conviction on a lesser or different charge (such as Assault Resulting in Death of a Child Under Age 8, PC §273ab), that statistic would be reflected as a conviction under the statistics compiled for the lesser or different charge (Figures 6 and 7).

In assessing cases that were either dismissed or declined for filing (Figures 3, 4, 5 and 11), it is important to keep in mind that among the reasons for declining to file a case (lack of corpus delicti, lack of sufficient evidence, inadmissible search and seizure, interest of justice, deferral for revocation of parole, a probation violation was filed in lieu of a new filing, or a referral for misdemeanor consideration to another agency) a key factor may be that the victim is unavailable to testify (either unable to locate the victim or the victim being unable to qualify as a witness) or unwilling to testify. In cases involving allegations of sexual assault against a child or an adult, or domestic violence against a teenager or adults, the victim may decline to participate in a prosecution and not face the prospect of being incarcerated for contempt of court for failing to testify (CCP §1219). As a general principle, it is considered essential to protect the child victim from additional harm; forcing a child to participate in the criminal justice process against his or her will would not meet these criteria. This deference to the greater goal of protection of the victim results in some cases which

would ordinarily meet the filing criteria to be declined and others which have already been filed to be dismissed or settled for a compromise disposition.

A synopsis of the charges used to compile this report is included as an addendum to this narrative. Sentencing data is broken down to cover cases in which a defendant has received a life sentence, a state prison sentence, or a probationary sentence (Figures 7 and 8). A probationary sentence includes, in a vast majority of cases, a sentence to county jail for up to 1 year as a term and condition of probation under a 5-year grant of supervised probation.

Statistics reflecting the Child Abduction Section are reflected in one chart (Figure 9). It is important to note that the raw data contained in this Figure is also reflected in the overall numbers reported in Figures 2, 3 and 4. This chart is provided as a sample of the types of cases handled by a special unit and the numbers of cases prosecuted by specially trained, grant-funded deputies.

As it is not uncommon for minors to commit acts of abuse against children, juvenile delinguency statistics detailing the number of felony and misdemeanor petitions filed, dismissed, and declined are included (Figures 12, 13, 14, 15, and 16). It is important to note the fact that the perpetrator of the offense is under the age of 18 is not the sole determinative factor in making a decision as to whether the minor perpetrated a criminal act against a child. A schoolyard fight between peers would not be categorized as an incident of child abuse nor would consensual sexual conduct between underage peers be automatically categorized as child molestation; but an incident involving a 17-year-old babysitter intentionally scalding a 6-year-old child with hot water would be investigated as a child abuse and an incident in which a 16-year-old cousin fondled the genitals of an 8-year-old family member would be investigated as a child molestation. A 16-year-old who punched his 16-year-old girlfriend in the face would be investigated as intimate partner violence.

Statistics regarding the gender of defendants are also included. It is important when comparing the years of available statistics covering juvenile delinquency offenses to remember that Proposition 21, which took effect March 8, 2000, is no longer the law after Proposition 57 was passed in November 2016. This factor may make any meaningful comparisons between the statistics during the 16-year period Proposition 21 was in effect and the periods before







Proposition 21 was enacted and after Proposition 57 was passed difficult. Adult and juvenile comparisons are provided, as are comparisons among both groups for total cases filed by the District Attorney's Office compared to a gender breakdown for child abuse related offenses (Figures 18, 19, 20, and 21).

Information contained by zip code is provided as a means of determining how children in different areas of the county are impacted by these crimes (Figures 10 and 17). The majority of cases in the District Attorney's Office are filed in the jurisdiction where the crime occurred. The zip codes represent the address of the District Attorney's Office where the case was filed.

For the sixteenth year, the report contains data regarding the number of child abuse cases filed that also included the filing of a count of Spousal Abuse within the meaning of PC §273.5 (Figure 22). The percentage of cases in which these offenses are joined has been consistent. From 2007 through 2010, and in 2013 and 2014, this joinder occurred in 7% of the cases filed. In 2011, 2012, and 2015, this joinder occurred in 8% of the cases. In 2016, 2017, and 2018, 9% of the cases reflected this joinder. In 2019, this joinder occurred in 10% of the cases filed and, in 2020, this joinder occurred in 11% of the cases filed.

#### **SELECTED FINDINGS**

- A total of 4,344 cases relating to child abuse and neglect were submitted for filing consideration against adult defendants in 2020.
- Of these, charges were filed in 45% (1,955) of the cases reviewed. Felony charges were filed in 51% (992) of these matters. Misdemeanor charges were filed in 49% (963) of these matters.
- Of those cases declined for filing (a total of 2,389 - both felonies and misdemeanors), cases submitted alleging a violation of PC §288(a) accounted for 26% of the declinations (619).
- In 77% of the adult cases filed involving child abuse, the gender of the defendant was male.
- Convictions were achieved in 87% of the case dispositions in 2020 involving adult offenders. Defendants received grants of probation in 73% (689) of these cases. State prison sentences were ordered in 24% (229) of the cases; with under 1% (6) of the defendants receiving a life sentence in state prison.
- A total of 183 cases relating to child abuse and neglect were submitted for filing consideration

- against juvenile offenders.
- Of these, charges were filed in 49% (90) of the cases reviewed. Felony charges were filed in 88% (79) of these cases.
- Of the filed cases, 36% (32) alleged a violation of PC §288(a). Of the declined cases (93 both felonies and misdemeanors), 43% (40) alleged a violation of PC §288(a).
- In 93% of the petitions filed involving child abuse, the gender of the minor was male.
- Sustained petitions (40) were achieved in 60% of the juvenile case dispositions in 2020.

#### CONCLUSION

The District Attorney's Office is dedicated to providing justice to the children of this community. Efforts to enhance their safety through the vigorous prosecution of individuals who prey upon children are tempered with care and compassion for the needs of the children who have been victimized. This process is important to a prosecuting entity that has been sensitized to the special nature of these cases and assisted by active partnerships with other public and private entities in crime prevention efforts designed to enrich the lives of all children. Through these efforts, the District Attorney's Office has established a leadership role in community efforts to battle child abuse and neglect.





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Figure 1			
LIST	OF PRIORITIZE	D STATUTE	S FOR 2020
CODE	STATUTE	FORM NO	ORDER
PC	187(A)		1
РС	273AB(A)		2
PC	273AB(B)		3
PC	273AB		4
PC	288.7(A)		5
PC	288.7(B)		6
PC	236.1(C)		7
PC	236.1(C)(1)		8
PC	236.1(C)(2)		9
PC	269(A)(1)		10
PC	269(A)(2)		11
PC	269(A)(3)		12
PC	269(A)(4)		13
PC	269(A)(5)		14
PC	664/187(A)		15
PC	261(A)(2)	001	16
PC	261(A)(2)	001	17
PC	664/261(A)(2)	002	16.1
PC		001	17.1
PC	664/261(A)(2)	002	
PC	236.1(B)		18 19
	236.1(A)		
PC	264.1(B)(1)		20
PC PC	264.1(B)(2)		21
	207(B)	000	22
PC	207(C)	002	23
PC	207(D)	002	24
PC PC	207(A)	002	25
	207(A)	003	26
PC	664/207(A)	002	25.1
PC	664/207(A)	003	26.1
PC	208(B)		27
PC	288.5(A)		28
PC PC	288.5	+	29
PC	286(C)(2)(B)		30
	286(C)(2)(C)		31
PC PC	286(D)(2)	+	32
	286(D)(3)		33
PC	288A(C)(2)(B)		34
PC	288A(C)(2)(C)	004	35
PC	288A(D)(2)	001	36
PC	288A(D)(3)	001	37
PC	289(A)(1)(B)	+	38
PC	289(A)(1)(C)		39
PC	286(C)(1)	204	40
PC	286(C)	001	41
PC	288(B)(1)	+	42
PC	288(B)(2)		43

Figure 1			
LIST	OF PRIORITIZE	D STATUTI	ES FOR 2020
CODE	STATUTE	FORM NO	ORDER
PC	288(B)		44
PC	288(A)		45
PC	664/288(A)		45.1
PC	288A(C)(1)		46
PC	288A(C)	001	47
PC	664/288(C)(1)	001	47.1
PC	289(J)		48
PC	289(I)		49
PC	289(H)		50
PC	273A(A)		51
PC	273D(A)		52
PC	278		53
PC	278.5		54
PC	278.5(A)		55
PC	288(C)(1)		56





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Figure 40			
Figure 1a			
	OF PRIORITIZE	DSTATUTE	S FOR 2020
CODE	STATUTE	FORM NO	ORDER
PC	288(C)		57
PC	286(B)(2)		58
PC	286(B)(1)		59
PC	288A(B)(1)		60
PC	266J		61
PC	266H(B)		62
PC	266H(B)(1)		63
PC	266H(B)(2)		64
PC	266I(B)		65
PC	266I(B)(1)		66
PC	266I(B)(2)		67
PC	266		68
PC	288A(B)(2)		69
PC	25100(A)		70
PC	311.4(B)		71
PC	311.2(A)		72
PC	311.2(C)		073
PC	311.10		074
PC	311.11(B)		075
PC	288.3(A)		076
PC	664/288.3(A)		076.1
PC	288.3(C)		077
PC	288.4(B)		078
PC	288.2(A)		079
PC	261.5(D)		080
PC	261.5(C)	002	081
PC	288.4(A)(2)		082
PC	647.6(C)(1)		083
PC	311.1(A)		084
PC	311.4(C)		085
PC	288.4(A)(1)		086
PC	271A		087
PC	25100(B)		088
PC	25200(A)		089
PC	25200(B)		090
PC	267		091
PC	288.2(B)		092
PC	647.6(C)(2)		093
PC	647.6(B)		094
PC	647.6(A)(2)	002	095
PC	647.6(A)(2)	001	096
PC	647.6(A)(1)	002	097
PC	647.6(A)(1)	001	098
PC	261.5(C)	001	099
PC	647.6(A)	002	100
PC	647.6(A)	001	101

Figure 1a			
LIST	OF PRIORITIZED	STATUTE	S FOR 2020
CODE	STATUTE	FORM NO	ORDER
PC	261.5(B)		103
PC	261.5		104
PC	273J(A)		105
PC	273A(B)		106
PC	273G		107
PC	311.1		108
PC	311.4(A)		109
PC	311.11(A)		110
PC	311.3(A)		111
PC	273I(A)		112
PC	273J(B)		113
PC	270.5		114
PC	272(A)(1)		115
PC	664/272(A)(1)		115.1







Figure 2										
J	TOTAL	ADULT	FILING	S BY CH	IARGE	FOR 20	11 THRO	DUGH 20	015	
		011		)12		13		14		15
CHARGE	Felony	Misd	Felony	Misd	Felony	Misd	Felony	Misd	Felony	Misd
PC12035(B)(1)	2	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0
PC187(A)	16	0	13	0	12	0	12	0	16	0
PC207(A)	17	0	12	0	27	0	19	0	29	0
PC207(B)	6	0	2	0	4	0	5	0	0	0
PC208(B)	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
PC236.1(A)	0	0	14	0	2	0	12	0	7	0
PC236.1(B)	0	0	0	0	3	0	19	0	14	0
PC236.1(C)(1)	0	0	0	0	15	0	39	0	40	0
PC236.1(C)(2)	0	0	0	0	6	0	3	0	12	0
PC 25100(A)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
PC 25100(B)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
PC261(A)(2)	4	0	10	0	23	0	25	0	17	0
PC261.5	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
PC261.5(B)	0	21	0	13	0	15	0	25	0	15
PC261.5(C)	57	42	39	32	30	31	32	17	39	19
PC261.5(D)	24	3	12	6	11	4	13	3	11	1
PC264.1(B)(2)	0	0	2	0	8	0	0	0	3	0
PC266	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
PC266H(B)(1)	6	0	14	0	2	0	2	0	0	0
PC266H(B)(2)	1	0	6	0	4	0	1	0	0	0
PC266I(B)(1)	4	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
PC266I(B)(2)	1	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	1	0
PC269(A)(1)	20	0	27	0	21	0	25	0	12	0
PC269(A)(2)	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
PC269(A)(3)	2	0	4	0	3	0	4	0	3	0
PC269(A)(4)	4	0	3	0	11	0	4	0	5	0
PC269(A)(5)	1	0	3	0	1	0	3	0	2	0
PC271A	1	0	1	3	0	1	0	5	0	1
PC272(A)(1)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	50
PC273A(A)	375	115	332	102	326	86	374	78	366	84
PC273A(B)	0	746	0	786	1	761	1	904	0	879
PC273AB(A)	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
PC273AB(B)	3	0	3	0	2	0	4	0	6	0
PC273D(A)	43	73	41	50	35	59	34	57	29	34
PC273G	0	0	0	3	0	3	0	1	0	1
PC278	14	5	9	2	14	3	6	3	11	1
PC278.5	0	0	0	1	3	0	0	0	1	1
PC278.5(A)	8	3	10	2	11	1	4	0	3	6
PC286(B)(1)	6	1	6	2	3	2	5	2	5	1
PC286(B)(2)	3	0	2	0	1	0	2	0	0	0
PC286(C)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
PC286(C)(1)	2	0	6	0	3	0	2	0	4	0
PC286(C)(2)(B)	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	3	0
PC286(C)(2)(C)	4	0	3	0	0	0	3	0	1	0
PC288(A)	258	0	241	0	237	1	215	0	222	0
PC288(B)	1	0	4	0	2	0	1	0	0	0
PC288(B)(1)	45	0	33	1	33	0	21	0	21	0



Figure 2										
Figure 2		4 B. III =	=	0 5 7 6 1			44			
			FILING							4.5
CHARGE	Felony	011 Misd	Felony	012 Misd	Felony	Misd	Felony	)14 Misd	Felony	015 Misd
PC288(B)(2)	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0
PC288(C)	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
PC288(C)(1)	78	0	80	2	64	5	73	4	0	0
PC288.2(A)	0	0	6	2	1	0	0	0	59	2
PC288.3(A)	9	0	6	0	21	0	15	1	0	0
PC288.4(A)(1)	0	0	0	0	0	2	1	2	9	0
PC288.4(B)	5	0	7	0	5	0	39	0	0	0
PC288.5	2	0	1	0	4	0	2	0	3	1
PC288.5(A)	96	0	86	0	93	0	85	0	1	0
PC288.7(A)	45	0	40	0	50	0	42	0	101	0
PC288.7(B)	54	0	45	0	55	0	61	0	53	0
PC288A(B)(1)	29	1	18	7	10	5	25	1	65	0
PC288A(B)(2)	11	0	4	0	7	0	3	0	16	4
PC288A(C)	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
PC288A(C)(1)	1	0	1	0	2	0	0	0	5	0
PC288A(C)(2)(B)	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0
PC288A(C)(2)(C)	5	0	0	0	2	0	4	0	0	0
PC289(A)(1)(B)	1	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0
PC289(A)(1)(C)	1	0	1	0	2	0	1	0	1	0
PC289(H)	15	0	12	4	8	1	13	3	1	0
PC289(I)	15	0	11	0	9	0	20	0	5	0
PC289(J)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	17	4
PC311.1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	12	0
PC311.10	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
PC311.1(A)	15	0	37	1	64	0	72	1	0	0
PC311.11(A)	41	3	43	7	42	6	41	9	0	0
PC311.11(B)	5	0	6	0	8	0	9	0	56	1
PC311.2(A)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	27	16
PC311.2(B)	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	8	0
PC311.2(C)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3
PC311.3(A)	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0
PC311.4(A)	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	5	0
PC311.4(C)	2	0	3	0	0	0	2	0	0	0
PC647.6	0	2	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
PC647.6(A)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0
PC647.6(A)(1)	5	107	7	104	3	116	6	93	0	0
PC647.6(A)(2)	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	2	0	0
PC647.6(B)	1	0	0	0	2	0	3	0	2	87
PC647.6(C)(1)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
PC647.6(C)(2)	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	1	0
PC664/187(A)	16	0	12	0	16	0	13	0	1	0
PC664/207(A)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0
PC664/236.1(B)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	13	0
PC664/261(A)(2)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
PC664/272(A)(1)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
PC664/288(A)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
D0004/000/D1/41		_	_	_	_	_	_	_	_	

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PC664/288(B)(1)

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PC664/288(C)(1)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
PC664/288.3(A)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
TOTAL	1,387	1,123	1,286	1,138	1,328	1,102	1,424	1,211	1,351	1,212	
ANNUAL TOTAL	2,5	2,510		2,424		2,430		2,635		2,563	

Figure 2a	Figure 2a										
	TOTAL	ADULT	FILING	S BY CI	HARGE	FOR 20	16 THR	OUGH 20	020		
		)16		17		18		019		20	
CHARGE	Felony	Misd	Felony	Misd	Felony	Misd	Felony	Misd	Felony	Misd	
PC12035(B)(1)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
PC187(A)	22	0	20	0	12	0	13	0	19	0	
PC207(A)	30	0	26	0	36	0	14	0	23	0	
PC207(B)	2	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	
PC208(B)	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
PC236.1(A)	9	0	1	0	4	0	3	0	1	0	
PC236.1(B)	20	0	13	0	17	0	12	0	16	0	
PC236.1(C)(1)	65	0	71	0	44	0	37	0	29	0	
PC236.1(C)(2)	1	0	8	0	4	0	6	0	6	0	
PC 25100(A)	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
PC 25100(B)	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	1	
PC261(A)(2)	18	0	22	0	39	0	37	0	12	0	
PC261.5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
PC261.5(B)	0	11	0	13	0	4	0	6		12	
PC261.5(C)	11	17	24	17	15	11	20	7	11	9	
PC261.5(D)	5	4	12	0	8	1	6	0	4	0	
PC264.1(B)(2)	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	
PC266	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
PC266H(B)(1)	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	
PC266H(B)(2)	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	
PC266I(B)(1)	2	0	5	0	4	0	1	0	1	0	
PC266I(B)(2)	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
PC269(A)(1)	11	0	9	0	6	0	4	0	8	0	
PC269(A)(2)	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
PC269(A)(3)	2	0	1	0	1	0	1	0	1	0	
PC269(A)(4)	2	0	2	0	0	0	3	0	1	0	
PC269(A)(5)	1	0	1	0	1	0	3	0	1	0	
PC271A	1	1	0	1	0	2	0	1	0	1	
PC272(A)(1)	0	75	0	46	0	46	0	37	0	23	
PC273A(A)	323	84	332	83	351	134	344	160	275	146	
PC273A(B)	0	870	0	852	0	836	1	738	0	639	
PC273AB(A)	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	
PC273AB(B)	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	2	0	
PC273D(A)	40	48	37	41	44	26	37	65	15	57	
PC273G	0	1	0	2	0	1	0	1	0	2	
PC278	14	4	16	0	12	5	16	2	19	2	
PC278.5	1	0	10	1	7	2	0	0	0	0	
PC278.5(A)	7	2	3	3	2	3	5	2	10	3	
PC286(B)(1)	4	0	4	1	5	0	5	2	2	0	
PC286(B)(2)	0	0	3	0	2	0	4	0	0	0	
PC286(C)	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	







Figure 2a										
	TOTAL	<b>ADULT</b>	<b>FILING</b>	S BY CI				OUGH 20	020	
CHARGE		)16		)17		)18		019 Mind		)20
PC286(C)(1)	Felony 2	Misd 0	Felony 1	Misd 0	<b>Felony</b> 0	Misd 0	Felony 1	Misd 0	Felony 4	Misd 0
PC286(C)(2)(B)	0	0	1	0	1	0	1	0	1	0
PC286(C)(2)(C)	1	0	5	0	2	0	0	0	1	0
PC288(A)	173	0	180	0	156	0	166	0	113	0
PC288(B)	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
PC288(B)(1)	22	1	18	0	18	0	19	0	12	0
PC288(B)(2)	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
PC288(C)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
PC288(C)(1)	49	1	54	1	36	0	31	0	35	0
PC288.2(A)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
PC288.3(A)	14	0	13	0	12	0	11	0	11	0
PC288.4(A)(1)	0	2	0	3	0	9	0	0	0	2
PC288.4(B)	15	0	20	0	41	0	15	0	17	0
PC288.5	3	0	2	0	4	0	1	0	1	0
PC288.5(A)	78	0	63	0	55	0	72	0	73	0
PC288.7(A)	47	0	52	0	57	0	53	0	60	0
PC288.7(B)	47	0	69	0	62	0	65	0	53	0
PC288A(B)(1)	16	2	16	2	15	3	1	0	0	1
PC288A(B)(2)	4	0	6	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
PC288A(C)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
PC288A(C)(1)	1	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	1	0
PC288A(C)(2)(B)	2	0	3	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
PC288A(C)(2)(C)	6	0	3	0	5	0	0	0	0	0
PC289(A)(1)(B)	3	0	0	0	4	0	2	0	2	0
PC289(A)(1)(C)	3	0	3	0	4	0	7	0	4	0
PC289(H)	16	2	14	1	10	2	9	0	7	1
PC289(I)	13	0	10	0	9	0	8	0	7	0
PC289(J)	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
PC311.1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	6	2
PC311.10	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
PC311.1(A)	57	1	76	1	67	2	52	4	28	2
PC311.11(A)	20	4	29	6	36	10	37	7	45	8
PC311.11(B)	11	0	17	0	12	0	19	0	14	0
PC311.2(A)	0	6	0	4	0	4	0	5	0	3
PC311.2(B)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
PC311.2(C)	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
PC311.3(A)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
PC311.4(A)	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
PC311.4(C)	1	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
PC647.6	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
PC647.6(A)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
PC647.6(A)(1)	3	93	0	81	0	77	2	63	1	48
PC647.6(A)(2)	0	2	0	0	0	5	0	1	1	1
PC647.6(B)	2	1	1	1	0	0	1	0	0	0
PC647.6(C)(1)	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
PC647.6(C)(2)	4	0	1	0	2	0	3	0	0	0







Figure 2a										
	TOTAL	<b>ADULT</b>	FILING	S BY CI	HARGE	FOR 20	16 THRO	DUGH 20	)20	
	20	16	20	17	20	18	20	)19	2020	
CHARGE	Felony	Misd	Felony	Misd	Felony	Misd	Felony	Misd	Felony	Misd
PC664/187(A)	0	0	0	0	0	0	19	0	10	0
PC664/207(A)	0	0	0	0	0	0	15	0	18	0
PC664/236.1(B)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0
PC664/261(A)(2)	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
PC664/272(A)(1)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
PC664/288(A)	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	2	0
PC664/288(B)(1)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
PC664/288(C)(1)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0
PC664/288.3(A)	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	1	0
TOTAL	1,209	1,232	1,289	1,161	1,231	1,183	1,191	1,104	992	963
ANNUAL TOTAL	2,4	41	2,4	50	2,4	14	2,2	295	1,9	55

Figure 3										
T	OTAL AI	DULT D	ISMISSA	ALS BY	CHARG	E FOR	2009 TH	ROUGH	1 2013	
	20	11	20	12	20	13	20	14	20	15
CHARGE	FELONY	MISD	FELONY	MISD	FELONY	MISD	FELONY	MISD	FELONY	MISD
PC187(A)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
PC207(A)	0	0	1	0	0	0	2	0	1	0
PC207(B)	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
PC236.1(A)	0	0	1	0	0	0	2	0	0	0
PC236.1(B)	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	2	0
PC236.1(C)(1)	0	0	0	0	2	0	1	0	7	0
PC236.1(C)(2)	0	0	0	0	2	0	1	0	1	0
PC261(A)(2)	0	0	0	0	2	0	2	0	1	0
PC261.5(B)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	2
PC261.5(C)	0	0	1	0	0	2	1	4	1	4
PC261.5(D)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
PC264.1(B)(2)	0	0	0	0	4	0	0	0	0	0
PC266H(B)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
PC266H(B)(1)	3	0	6	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
PC266H(B)(2)	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
PC266I(B)(1)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
PC269(A)(1)	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
PC269(A)(2)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
PC269(A)(4)	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
PC269(A)(5)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
PC271A	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0
PC272(A)(1)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	12
PC273A(A)	18	10	0	0	15	5	16	4	20	4
PC273A(B)	0	76	0	0	0	48	0	88	0	82
PC273AB(B)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
PC273D(A)	3	9	0	0	1	4	1	16	3	7
PC273G	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
PC278	4	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
PC278.5	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
PC278.5(A)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1







Figure 3	gure 3 TOTAL ADULT DISMISSALS BY CHARGE FOR 2009 THROUGH 2013									
T	OTAL AI	DULT D	ISMISS#	ALS BY	CHARG	E FOR	2009 TH	ROUGH	1 2013	
	20	)11	20	12	20	13	20	14	20	15
CHARGE	FELONY	MISD	FELONY	MISD	FELONY	MISD	FELONY	MISD	FELONY	MISD
PC286(B)(1)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
PC286(C)(1)	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
PC288(A)	11	0	10	0	5	0	5	0	7	0
PC288(B)(1)	0	0	0	0	2	0	2	0	4	0
PC288(C)(1)	4	0	1	0	2	0	1	0	1	0
PC288.3(A)	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
PC288.4(A)(1)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
PC288.4(B)	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0
PC288.5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
PC288.5(A)	0	0	0	0	1	0	2	0	2	0
PC288.7(A)	2	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	2	0
PC288.7(B)	5	0	0	0	2	0	2	0	3	0
PC288A(B)(1)	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
PC289(H)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
PC289(I)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
PC311.1(A)	0	0	1	0	0	0	2	0	0	0
PC311.11(A)	1	1	5	0	5	0	2	0	1	0
PC311.11(B)	0	0	0	0	1	0	2	0	1	0
PC311.2(B)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
PC311.2(C)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
PC311.3(A)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
PC647.6(A)(1)	0	6	1	0	1	8	0	15	0	16
PC647.6(A)(2)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
PC647.6(C)(2)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
PC664/187(A)	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
TOTAL	54	102	31	0	51	69	48	135	61	128
ANNUAL TOTAL	15	56	3	1	12	20	18	33	18	39

Figure 3a										
T	OTAL A	DULT D	ISMISSA	LS BY	CHARG	E FOR	2016 TH	ROUGH	1 2020	
	20	16	20	17	20	18	20	19	20	20
CHARGE	FELONY	MISD	FELONY	MISD	FELONY	MISD	FELONY	MISD	FELONY	MISD
PC187(A)	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	1	
PC207(A)	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	2	
PC207(B)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
PC236.1(A)	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0
PC236.1(B)	3	0	1	0	4	0	0	0	1	0
PC236.1(C)(1)	7	0	1	0	2	0	6	0	1	0
PC236.1(C)(2)	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	1	0
PC261(A)(2)	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
PC261.5(B)	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
PC261.5(C)	1	0	1	2	0	1	1	1	0	0
PC261.5(D)	1	0	1	0	0	0	2	0	0	0
PC264.1(B)(2)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
PC266H(B)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
PC266H(B)(1)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0







Figure 3a										
T	OTAL AI	DULT D	ISMISS	ALS BY	CHARG	E FOR	2016 TH	ROUGH	1 2020	
	20	16	20	17	20	)18	20	19	20	20
CHARGE	FELONY	MISD	FELONY	MISD	FELONY	MISD	FELONY	MISD	FELONY	MISD
PC266H(B)(2)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
PC266I(B)(1)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
PC269(A)(1)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
PC269(A)(2)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
PC269(A)(4)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
PC269(A)(5)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
PC271A	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
PC272(A)(1)	0	17	0	3	0	6	0	10	0	3
PC273A(A)	16	5	16	6	23	19	10	9	5	10
PC273A(B)	0	75	0	81	0	84	0	78	0	83
PC273AB(B)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
PC273D(A)	0	5	3	10	5	3	2	23	1	15
PC273G	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
PC278	0	0	4	0	1	0	2	0	1	1
PC278.5	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
PC278.5(A)	0	0	1	2	0	1	1	0	2	1
PC286(B)(1)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
PC286(C)(1)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
PC288(A)	3	0	4	0	6	0	5	0	5	0
PC288(B)(1)	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0
PC288(C)(1)	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0
PC288.3(A)	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
PC288.4(A)(1)	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	0
PC288.4(B)	0	0	2	0	4	0	0	0	1	0
PC288.5	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
PC288.5(A)	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	4	0
PC288.7(A)	0	0	3	0	3	0	1	0	0	0
PC288.7(B)	3	0	1	0	3	0	1	0	1	0
PC288A(B)(1)	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0
PC289(H)	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
PC289(I)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
PC311.1(A)	0	0	2	0	4	0	0	0	1	1
PC311.11(A)	0	0	3	1	1	0	2	0	0	0
PC311.11(B)	4	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	1	0
PC311.2(B)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
PC311.2(C)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
PC311.3(A)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
PC647.6(A)(1)	0	7	0	8	0	11	0	10	0	6
PC647.6(A)(2)	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0
PC647.6(C)(2)	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
PC664/187(A)	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
TOTAL	42	111	51	114	62	131	39	133	33	121
ANNUAL TOTAL	15	53	10	65	19	93	17	72	15	54







Figure 4										
_	OTAL AD	ULT DE	CLINDE	D FOR F	ILING F	OR 2011	THROU	GH 2020		
	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
CHARGE	COUNT	COUNT	COUNT	COUNT	COUNT	COUNT	COUNT	COUNT	COUNT	COUNT
PC12035(B)(1)	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
PC12035(B)(2)	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
PC12036(B)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
PC187(A)	3	1	3	0	1	0	0	0	6	2
PC207(A)	0	7	1	6	3	6	4	10	1	9
PC207(B)	1	2	0	1	0	7	0	0	0	0
PC236.1(A)	0	3	13	11	9	9	6	3	3	2
PC236.1(B)	0	0	0	1	7	9	24	17	22	23
PC236.1(C)	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
PC236.1(C)(1)	0	0	2	6	6	14	21	19	18	21
PC236.1(C)(2)	0	0	0	0	1	2	7	1	3	2
PC25100(A)	0	0	0	0	1	2	0	0	2	1
PC25100(B)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0
PC25200(A)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
PC261(A)(2)	18	22	51	46	51	50	42	36	34	34
PC261.5	2	1	2	0	0	4	0	2	0	1
PC261.5(A)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
PC261.5(B)	101	70	86	47	40	44	35	25	31	20
PC261.5(C)	231	180	166	149	157	117	131	87	104	81
PC261.5(D)	52	42	33	24	33	20	31	15	17	10
PC264.1(B)(1)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
PC264.1(B)(2)	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
PC266	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
PC266H(B)	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
PC266H(B)(1)	0	4	2	2	3	2	0	0	0	0
PC266H(B)(2)	0	5	3	4	1	0	0	0	0	0
PC266I(B)(1)	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
PC266I(B)(2)	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
PC266J	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
PC269(A)(1)	8	5	7	6	9	4	3	1	1	4
PC269(A)(2)	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
PC269(A)(3)	0	1	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
PC269(A)(4)	1	0	0	0	2	0	0	2	2	3
PC269(A)(5)	1	0	1	1	1	0	2	0	2	0
PC271A	3	4	3	6	0	6	2	0	3	1
PC272(A)(1)	0	0	0	0	21	22	13	13	15	14







PC273A	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
PC273A(A)	549	947	836	778	624	557	543	506	443	441
PC273A(B)	308	388	388	372	389	361	491	459	402	391
PC273AB	1	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
PC273AB(A)	0	2	3	1	1	0	1	0	0	2
PC273AB(B)	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0
PC273D(A)	131	250	286	203	122	90	110	113	163	160
PC273G	1	3	1	3	2	1	0	0	0	2
PC273I(A)	0	3	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
PC278	24	17	24	22	14	24	13	10	20	52
PC278.5	11	10	12	16	17	17	11	11	2	12
PC278.5(A)	39	31	24	23	36	22	26	24	41	33
PC286(B)(1)	14	14	6	7	8	6	6	7	9	5
PC286(B)(2)	7	2	0	3	1	2	2	1	0	1
PC286(C)	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	3	1
PC286(C)(1)	2	1	2	1	2	4	4	1	7	2
PC286(C)(2)(B)	0	0	1	1	0	2	0	2	0	0
PC286(C)(2)(C)	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	2	1	1
PC286(D)(2)	1	4	1	0	0	2	1	0	1	0
PC286(D)(3)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
PC288(A)	1,002	985	842	748	744	720	672	728	716	619
PC288(B)	1	0	1	1	3	1	1	1	0	3
PC288(B)(1)	20	14	12	11	17	8	18	17	14	13
PC288(B)(2)	3	0	1	1	1	1	0	2	0	0
PC288(C)	1	0	3	1	1	0	0	1	0	0
PC288(C)(1)	98	92	90	93	78	80	74	73	84	60
PC288.2(A)	0	3	5	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
PC288.2(B)	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
PC288.3(A)	8	5	6	8	7	5	5	2	5	6
PC288.3(C)	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
PC288.4(A)(1)	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	1
PC288.4(A)(2)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
PC288.4(B)	0	0	2	1	1	3	3	3	3	1
PC288.5	6	4	4	2	3	1	0	3	2	1
PC288.5(A)	104	101	96	96	94	127	94	94	94	140
PC288.7(A)	21	18	21	23	33	24	35	32	44	39
PC288.7(B)	20	21	26	40	29	22	36	31	35	39
PC288A(B)(1)	22	35	18	13	21	17	23	19	8	10
PC288A(B)(2)	3	5	1	5	7	6	2	0	2	6
PC288A(C)	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0





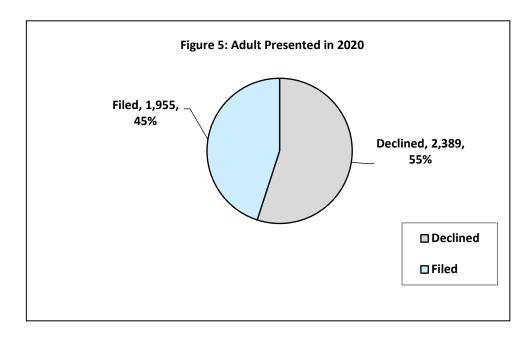


TOTAL	2,994	3,473	3,235	2,916	2,751	2,558	2,639	2,529	2,523	2,389
PC664/288.4(A)(1)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
PC664/288(C)(1)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0
PC664/288(A)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	1
PC664/261.5(C)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0
PC664/261(A)(2)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	3
PC664/207(A)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	1
PC664/187(A)	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	1	0
PC647.6(C)(2)	0	0	0	2	0	1	0	1	1	0
PC647.6(C)(1)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
PC647.6(B)	5	3	1	1	3	1	2	0	3	2
PC647.6(A)(2)	0	1	1	2	0	1	0	0	1	0
PC647.6(A)(1)	105	105	95	73	83	66	85	83	89	66
PC647.6(A)	5	2	1	0	0	0	1	1	0	1
PC647.6	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
PC311.4(C)	0	1	1	0	0	0	1	0	1	0
PC311.4(B)	1	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	1	1
PC311.4(A)	1	2	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
PC311.3(A)	2	1	1	1	0	1	0	0	0	0
PC311.2(D)	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
PC311.2(C)	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
PC311.2(B)	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
PC311.2(A)	0	0	0	0	2	2	1	1	0	0
PC311.11(B)	0	0	0	0	0	2	2	3	1	1
PC311.11(A)	27	20	16	23	25	16	21	16	10	17
PC311.10	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
PC311.1(A)	1	5	3	11	3	7	1	2	3	1
PC311.1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	2	0
PC289(I)	2	4	1	0	0	1	0	1	0	1
PC289(I)	1	4	2	2	1	1	5	0	3	2
PC289(H)	13	6	7	3	9	13	7	7	8	7
PC289(A)(1)(C)	1	2	9	3	5	5	5	10	5	2
PC288(A)(1)(B) PC289(A)(1)(B)	0	0	0	1	3	5	4	10	9	7
PC288A(D)(3) PC288(A)(1)(B)	0	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
PC288A(C)(2)(C) PC288A(D)(3)	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	5 0	0	1
PC288A(C)(2)(B)	0	1	1	0	3	2	3	9	1	1
PC288A(C)(1)	3	3	3	3	6	4	2	4	3	3
			_	_	_					_









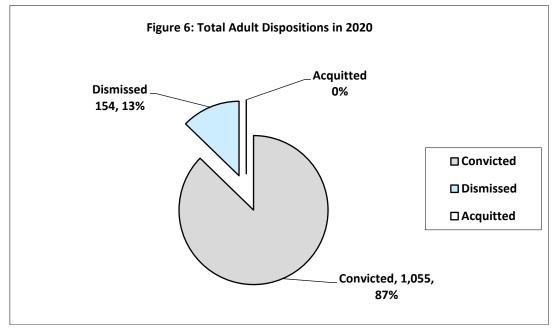
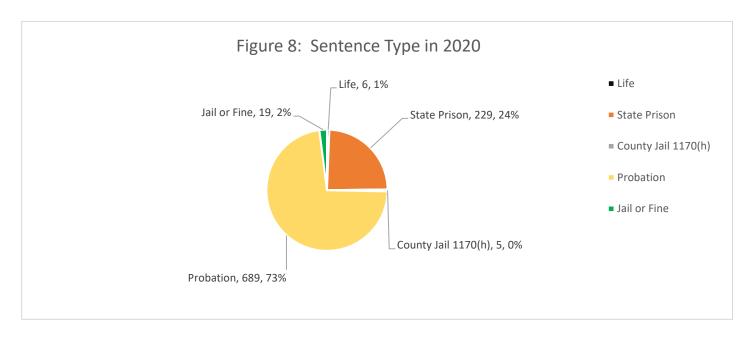


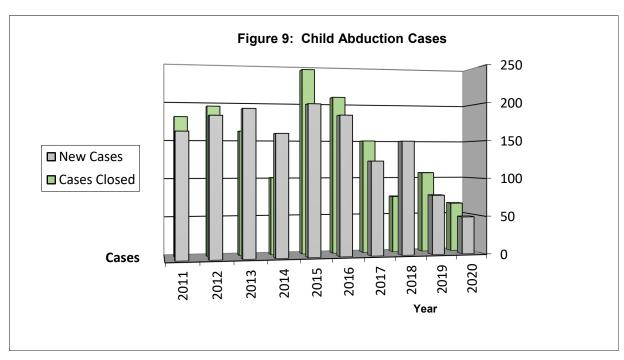
Figure 7										
	TOTAL A	ADULT C	ASES S	ENTEN	CED FOR	R 2011 T	HROUGI	H 2020		
	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
SENTENCE TYPE	COUNT	COUNT	COUNT	COUNT	COUNT	COUNT	COUNT	COUNT	COUNT	COUNT
LIFE	19	22	16	16	16	12	16	10	6	6
STATE PRISON	444	439	436	473	526	434	444	424	363	229
COUNTY JAIL 1170(H)	28	38	33	40	30	32	36	32	28	5
PROBATION	1,229	1,262	1,194	1,298	1,265	1,216	1,189	1,108	896	689









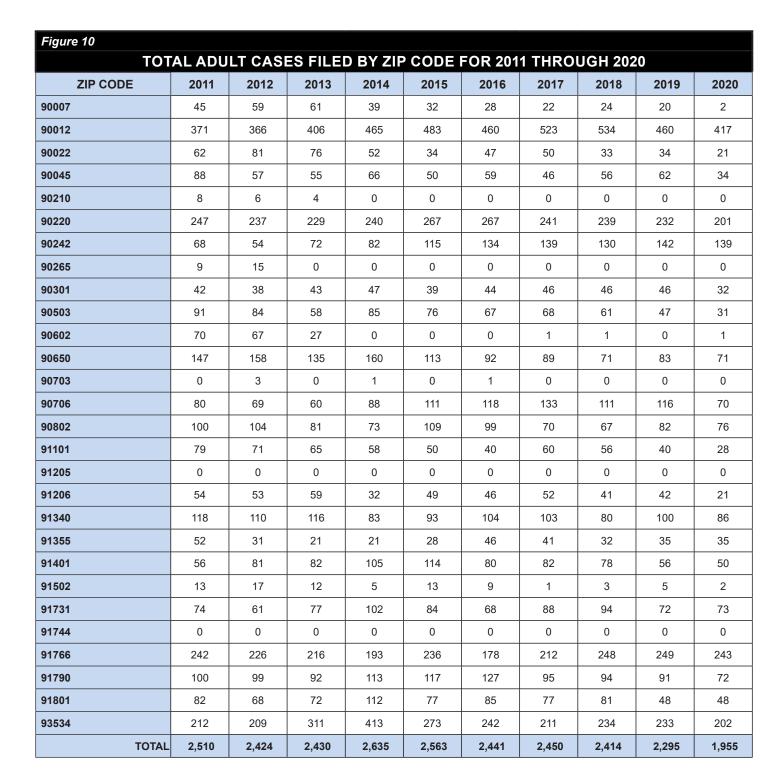


















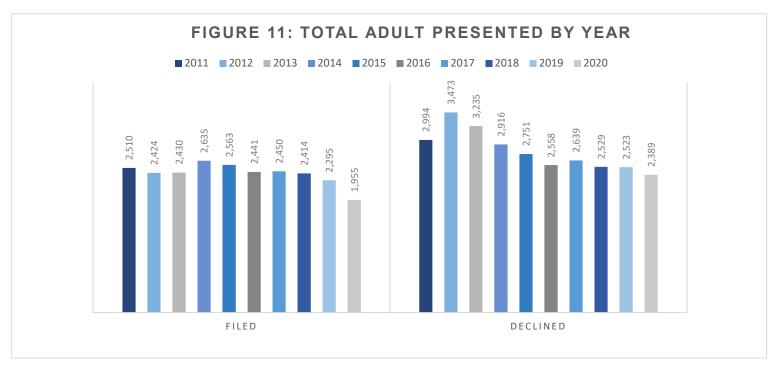


Figure 12										
	ТОТ	AL JUV	ENILE E	BY CHA	RGE FO	R 2011	THROU	GH 201	5	
	20	09	20	10	20	)11	20	12	20	13
CHARGE	FELONY	MISD	FELONY	MISD	FELONY	MISD	FELONY	MISD	FELONY	MISD
PC187(A)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
PC207(A)	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0
PC207(B)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
PC236.1(B)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
PC236.1(C)(1)	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	2	0
PC261(A)(2)	3	0	12	0	2	0	5	0	7	0
PC261.5(B)	1	6	0	11	0	14	0	9	0	5
PC261.5(C)	1	2	2	2	5	1	1	0	0	0
PC261.5(D)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
PC266H(B)(1)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
PC266I(B)(2)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
PC269(A)(1)	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
PC269(A)(3)	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	2	0
PC269(A)(4)	0	0	1	0	2	0	0	0	0	0
PC269(A)(5)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
PC272(A)(1)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
PC273A(A)	4	0	12	0	8	0	2	0	4	0
PC273A(B)	0	2	0	12	0	9	0	4	0	2
PC273D(A)	3	0	1	0	2	0	1	1	2	0
PC278	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
PC286(B)(1)	1	0	2	0	1	0	0	0	1	0
PC286(C)(1)	4	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
PC286(C)(2)(B)	1	0	9	0	6	0	5	0	1	0
PC286(C)(2)(C)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
PC286(D)(3)	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
PC288(A)	149	0	149	0	142	0	99	0	91	0







Figure 12										
	TOT	AL JUV	ENILE E	Y CHA	RGE FO	R 2011	THROU	GH 201	5	
	20	09	20	10	20	11	20	12	20	13
CHARGE	FELONY	MISD	FELONY	MISD	FELONY	MISD	FELONY	MISD	FELONY	MISD
PC288(B)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
PC288(B)(1)	50	0	41	0	47	0	26	0	22	0
PC288(C)(1)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
PC288.2(A)	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
PC288.3(A)	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	3	0
PC288.5(A)	20	0	10	0	17	0	8	0	11	0
PC288.7(A)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
PC288.7(B)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
PC288A(B)(1)	3	0	1	0	4	0	0	1	3	0
PC288A(B)(2)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
PC288A(C)(1)	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
PC288A(C)(2)(B)	1	0	5	0	4	0	3	0	4	0
PC288A(C)(2)(C)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
PC288A(D)(3)	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
PC289(A)(1)(B)	0	0	6	0	4	0	1	0	1	0
PC289(A)(1)(C)	0	0	1	0	0	0	2	0	1	0
PC289(H)	1	0	0	1	1	0	3	0	0	0
PC289(J)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
PC311.1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
PC311.10	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0
PC311.1(A)	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
PC311.11(A)	8	0	2	0	9	1	7	0	7	2
PC311.2(A)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
PC311.2(B)	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
PC311.2(C)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
PC311.2(D)	1	0	0	0	1	0	2	0	0	0
PC311.3(A)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
PC311.4(C)	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
PC647.6	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
PC647.6(A)(1)	0	7	0	10	0	2	0	2	0	4
PC647.6(B)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
PC664/187(A)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
PC664/207(A)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
PC664/261(A)(2)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
PC664/288(A)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL	256	18	260	36	259	27	171	17	168	13
ANNUAL TOTAL	27	74	29	06	28	36	18	38	18	31







Figure 12a										
Т	OTAL J	UVENIL	E FILIN	GS BY	CHARGI	E FOR 2	016 TH	ROUGH	2020	
	20	)16	20	)17	20	)18	20	19	20	20
CHARGE	Felony	Misd	Felony	Misd	Felony	Misd	Felony	Misd	Felony	Misd
PC187(A)	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
PC207(A)	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
PC207(B)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
PC236.1(B)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
PC236.1(C)(1)	0	0	2	0	1	0	0	0	1	0
PC261(A)(2)	7	0	10	0	10	0	20	0	10	0
PC261.5(B)	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	1
PC261.5(C)	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
PC261.5(D)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
PC266H(B)(1)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
PC266I(B)(2)	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
PC269(A)(1)	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	0
PC269(A)(3)	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
PC269(A)(4)	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0
PC269(A)(5)	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0
PC272(A)(1)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
PC273A(A)	3	0	2	0	3	0	7	0	1	0
PC273A(B)	0	3	0	8	0	2	0	2	0	2
PC273D(A)	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0
PC278	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
PC286(B)(1)	2	0	2	0	1	0	1	0	1	0
PC286(C)(1)	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
PC286(C)(2)(B)	4	0	3	0	4	0	6	0	0	0
PC286(C)(2)(C)	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
PC286(D)(3)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
PC288(A)	68	0	52	0	55	0	56	0	32	0
PC288(B)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
PC288(B)(1)	10	0	12	0	4	0	9	0	7	0
PC288(C)(1)	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
PC288.2(A)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
PC288.3(A)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
PC288.5(A)	9	0	16	0	12	0	22	0	12	0
PC288.7(A)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
PC288.7(B)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
PC288A(B)(1)	2	0	1	0	1	0	2	0	0	0
PC288A(B)(2)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
PC288A(C)(1)	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
PC288A(C)(2)(B)	1	0	1	0	3	0	4	0	0	0
PC288A(C)(2)(C)	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
PC288A(D)(3)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
PC289(A)(1)(B)	4	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	2	0
PC289(A)(1)(C)	0	0	3	0	0	0	2	0	0	0
PC289(H)	2	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	2	0
PC289(J)	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
PC311.1	1	0	0	0	2	2	0	0	1	0
PC311.10	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0







Figure 12a										
T	OTAL JI	JVENIL	E FILIN	GS BY (	CHARGI	E FOR 2	016 THF	ROUGH	2020	
	20	16	20	17	20	18	20	19	20	20
CHARGE	Felony	Misd	Felony	Misd	Felony	Misd	Felony	Misd	Felony	Misd
PC311.1(A)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
PC311.11(A)	9	2	6	1	7	1	9	1	5	3
PC311.2(A)	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	2
PC311.2(B)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
PC311.2(C)	1	0	1	0	1	0	1	0	0	0
PC311.2(D)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
PC311.3(A)	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
PC311.4(C)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
PC647.6	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
PC647.6(A)(1)	0	4	0	7	0	3	0	1	0	2
PC647.6(B)	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
PC664/187(A)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
PC664/207(A)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
PC664/261(A)(2)	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
PC664/288(A)	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0
TOTAL	128	11	117	16	113	12	147	7	79	11
ANNUAL TOTAL	13	39	13	33	12	25	18	54	9	0

Figure 13										
ТО	TAL JU	VENILE	DISMIS	SSALS	BY FILI	NG FOR	2011 Th	IROUG	H 2015	
	20	)11	20	)12	20	13	20	14	20	15
CHARGE	Felony	Misd	Felony	Misd	Felony	Misd	Felony	Misd	Felony	Misd
PC207(A)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
PC261(A)(2)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
PC236.1(C)(1)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
PC261.5(B)	0	1	0	4	0	3	0	2	0	1
PC261.5(C)	0	2	0	2	1	0	0	0	0	0
PC266I(B)(2)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
PC269(A)(5)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
PC273A(A)	1	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
PC273A(B)	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0
PC273D(A)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
PC286(B)(1)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
PC286(C)(2)(B)	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
PC288(A)	9	0	19	0	5	0	11	0	21	0
PC288(B)(1)	3	0	4	0	2	0	2	0	4	0
PC288.3(A)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
PC288.5(A)	0	0	2	0	2	0	1	0	1	0
PC288A(B)(1)	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
PC288A(C)(1)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
PC288A(C)(2)(B)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
PC289(A)(1)(C)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
PC289(H)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
PC311.1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
PC311.10	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
PC311.2(D)	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
PC311.11(A)	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	1	2







Figure 13														
TO	TAL JU	VENILE	DISMIS	SSALS	BY FILIN	NG FOR	2011 TH	IROUG	H 2015					
	2011 2012 2013 2014 2015													
CHARGE	Felony	Misd	Felony	Misd	Felony	Misd	Felony	Misd	Felony	Misd				
PC311.2(C)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0				
PC311.2(A)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0				
PC647.6(A)(1)	0	0	0	3	0	1	0	0	0	1				
PC664/288(A)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0				
TOTAL	14	3	28	11	10	4	17	2	33	4				
ANNUAL TOTAL	1	7	3	9	1	4	1	9	3	7				

Figure 13a TOTAL JUVENILE DISMISSALS BY FILING FOR 2016 THROUGH 2020												
TO	TAL JU	VENILE	DISMIS	SALS E	BY FILIN	IG FOR	2016 TH	IROUGI	1 2020			
		16		17		18		19		20		
CHARGE	Felony	Misd	Felony	Misd	Felony	Misd	Felony	Misd	Felony	Misd		
PC207(A)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		
PC261(A)(2)	0	0	1	0	3	0	1	0	2	0		
PC236.1(C)(1)	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		
PC261.5(B)	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0		
PC261.5(C)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		
PC266I(B)(2)	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		
PC269(A)(5)	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0		
PC273A(A)	0	0	1	0	0	0	2	0	0	0		
PC273A(B)	0	1	0	0	0	2	0	1	0	1		
PC273D(A)	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0		
PC286(B)(1)	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0		
PC286(C)(2)(B)	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0		
PC288(A)	12	0	14	0	12	0	13	0	12	0		
PC288(B)(1)	0	0	2	0	0	0	1	0	1	0		
PC288.3(A)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		
PC288.5(A)	1	0	2	0	1	0	3	0	3	0		
PC288A(B)(1)	1	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0		
PC288A(C)(1)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		
PC288A(C)(2)(B)	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0		
PC289(A)(1)(C)	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0		
PC289(H)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0		
PC311.1	0	0	0	0	1	2	0	0	0	0		
PC311.10	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		
PC311.2(D)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		
PC311.11(A)	3	1	3	0	1	1	2	0	1	2		
PC311.2(C)	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0		
PC311.2(A)	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	1		
PC647.6(A)(1)	0	0	0	4	0	1	0	1	0	1		
PC664/288(A)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0		
TOTAL	18	3	27	4	21	8	28	3	22	5		
ANNUAL TOTAL	2	21		31		9	3	1	27			







Figure 14										
J	TOTA	L JUVEI	NILE DE	CLINAT	IONS F	OR 2011	THRO	JGH 20 <sup>-</sup>	15	
	20	)11		12		13		14	20	15
CHARGE	Felony	Misd	Felony	Misd	Felony	Misd	Felony	Misd	Felony	Misd
PC236.1(C)(1)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0
PC236.1(C)(2)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
PC261(A)(2)	3	0	5	0	9	0	8	0	8	0
PC261.5	0	1	5	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
PC261.5(A)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
PC261.5(B)	0	75	0	89	0	106	0	97	0	98
PC261.5(C)	9	4	10	7	8	3	0	13	5	13
PC261.5(D)	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
PC264.1(B)(1)	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
PC264.1(B)(2)	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
PC269(A)(1)	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
PC269(A)(3)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
PC269(A)(4)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
PC271A	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
PC272(A)(1)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
PC273A(A)	2	0	5	0	1	0	2	0	2	0
PC273A(B)	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	2	0	0
PC273D(A)	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
PC273I(A)	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
PC278	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
PC278.5(A)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
PC286(B)(1)	8	0	8	0	2	0	4	0	3	0
PC286(B)(2)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
PC286(C)(1)	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
PC286(C)(2)(B)	0	0	1	0	1	0	2	0	1	0
PC286(C)(2)(C)	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	1	0
PC286(D)(3)	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
PC288(A)	162	0	223	1	216	0	171	0	163	0
PC288(B)	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
PC288(B)(1)	7	0	19	0	21	0	12	0	7	0
PC288(C)(1)	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
PC288.2(B)	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
PC288.3(A)	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0
PC288.5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
PC288.5(A)	1	0	2	0	4	0	2	0	5	0
PC288.7(B)	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
PC288A(B)(1)	2	0	5	0	7	0	9	0	7	1
PC288A(B)(2)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
PC288A(C)(1)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
PC288A(C)(2)(B)	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0
PC288A(C)(2)(C)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0
PC289(A)(1)(B)	0	0	0	0	2	0	1	0	0	0
PC289(A)(1)(C)	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
PC289(H)	1	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	0	3
PC289(J)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
PC311.1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
PC311.1(A)	0	0	0	0	1	2	0	0	0	0
. 0011.1(A)					ı					

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Figure 14										
	TOTAL	JUVE	NILE DE	CLINAT	IONS F	OR 2011	THRO	JGH 20 <sup>-</sup>	15	
	20	11	20	12	20	13	20	14	20	15
CHARGE	Felony	Misd	Felony	Misd	Felony	Misd	Felony	Misd	Felony	Misd
PC311.10	1	0	4	0	1	0	4	0	0	0
PC311.11(A)	5	0	8	0	3	0	4	0	10	1
PC311.2(A)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
PC311.2(B)	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
PC311.2(C)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
PC311.2(D)	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
PC311.3(A)	0	7	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
PC311.4(A)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
PC311.4(C)	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
PC647.6(A)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
PC647.6(A)(1)	1	7	0	9	0	4	0	12	0	10
PC647.6(B)	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0
TOTAL	202	95	306	108	281	116	231	125	225	130
ANNUAL TOTAL	29	7	41	14	39	97	356		355	

Figure 14a										
	TOTAL	_ JUVEI	NILE DE	CLINAT	IONS F	OR 2016	THRO	<b>JGH 20</b> 2	20	
		16		17		18		19		20
CHARGE	Felony	Misd	Felony	Misd	Felony	Misd	Felony	Misd	Felony	Misd
PC236.1(C)(1)	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
PC236.1(C)(2)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
PC261(A)(2)	7	0	18	0	12	0	12	0	6	0
PC261.5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
PC261.5(A)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
PC261.5(B)	0	85	0	92	0	52	0	37	0	26
PC261.5(C)	3	22	2	4	4	1	0	0	1	0
PC261.5(D)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
PC264.1(B)(1)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
PC264.1(B)(2)	0	0	0	0	12	0	0	0	0	0
PC269(A)(1)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
PC269(A)(3)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
PC269(A)(4)	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
PC271A	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
PC272(A)(1)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
PC273A(A)	1	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
PC273A(B)	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0
PC273D(A)	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
PC273I(A)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
PC278	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
PC278.5(A)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
PC286(B)(1)	1	0	3	0	4	0	1	0	2	0
PC286(B)(2)	1	0	1	0	3	0	1	0	0	0
PC286(C)(1)	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0
PC286(C)(2)(B)	0	0	2	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
PC286(C)(2)(C)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
PC286(D)(3)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
PC288(A)	146	0	133	1	68	0	58	0	40	0







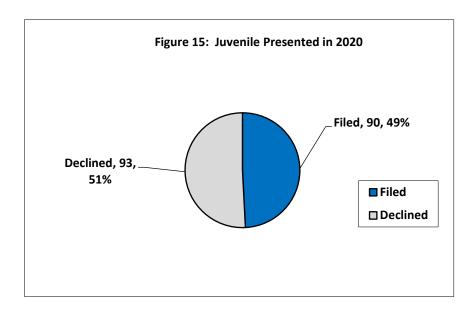


Figure 14a											
	TOTAL	JUVE	NILE DE	CLINAT	IONS F	OR 2016	THRO	JGH 202	20		
		16		17		18		19	1	20	
CHARGE	Felony	Misd	Felony	Misd	Felony	Misd	Felony	Misd	Felony	Misd	
PC288(B)	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
PC288(B)(1)	7	0	6	0	1	0	4	0	3	0	
PC288(C)(1)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
PC288.2(B)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
PC288.3(A)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
PC288.5	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
PC288.5(A)	2	0	7	0	10	0	8	0	1	0	
PC288.7(B)	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
PC288A(B)(1)	15	3	11	0	7	0	4	0	0	0	
PC288A(B)(2)	0	0	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
PC288A(C)(1)	1	0	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
PC288A(C)(2)(B)	0	0	4	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	
PC288A(C)(2)(C)	1	0	3	0	2	0	1	0	0	0	
PC289(A)(1)(B)	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	2	0	
PC289(A)(1)(C)	1	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	
PC289(H)	1	0	10	0	0	0	2	0	3	0	
PC289(J)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	
PC311.1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	
PC311.1(A)	0	0	14	0	5	0	0	4	1	0	
PC311.10	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
PC311.11(A)	6	1	0	0	0	0	3	0	4	0	
PC311.2(A)	0	1	0	3	0	2	0	0	0	0	
PC311.2(B)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
PC311.2(C)	2	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	
PC311.2(D)	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
PC311.3(A)	0	4	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	
PC311.4(A)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
PC311.4(C)	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	
PC647.6(A)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
PC647.6(A)(1)	0	6	0	3	0	2	0	1	0	0	
PC647.6(B)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
TOTAL	202	122	228	104	133	57	99	43	67	26	
ANNUAL TOTAL	32	24	33	32	19	90	14	12	9	3	









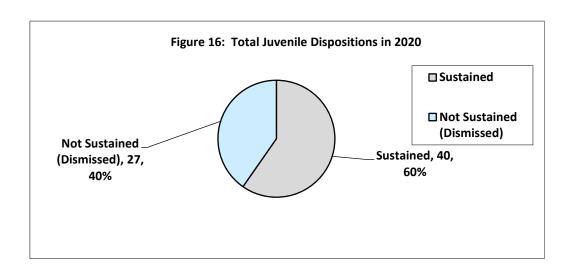








Figure 17										
TOTA	L JUVE	NILE CA	SES FIL	ED BY Z	IP CODE	E FOR 20	011 THR	OUGH 2	020	
ZIP CODE	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
90001	22	31	8	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
90033	55	46	48	27	22	38	44	24	33	27
90220	25	27	59	37	29	21	15	12	19	12
90242	29	27	27	17	22	10	10	16	8	0
90301	21	21	17	21	7	13	12	17	21	14
90802	19	12	14	16	16	10	9	6	8	4
91101	21	26	25	18	11	3	0	0	0	0
91342	47	70	50	20	34	22	17	18	28	13
91766	20	22	23	19	26	14	17	18	25	13
93534	15	14	15	13	14	8	9	14	12	7
TOTAL	274	296	286	188	181	139	133	125	154	90

Figure 1	8												
T	OTAL F	FILING	SBY	SENDE	ER (AL	L CHA	ARGES)	FOR 2	2011 TH	HROU	GH 201	5	
	2011 2012 2013												
	JUV.	%	ADULT	%	JUV.	%	ADULT	%	JUV.	%	ADULT	%	
FEMALE	3,029	19%	36,315	22%	2,552	19%	34,646	22%	1,898	19%	32,801	22%	
MALE	13,080	81%	126,685	78%	10,577	81%	119,415	78%	8,304	81%	114,878	78%	
TOTAL	16,109		163,000		13,129		154,061		10,202		147,679		

	2	014		2015					
JUV.	%	ADULT	%	JUV.	%	ADULT	%		
1,535	18%	32,543	22%	1,121	18%	32,492	22%		
6,859	82%	114,540	78%	5,189	82%	114,200	78%		
8,394		147,083		6,310		146,692			

Figure 1	Figure 18a													
TO	OTAL F	FILING	SBY	SENDE	R (AL	L CH	ARGES)	FOR 2	2016 T	HROU	GH 202	0		
		2	016			2	2017			2	018			
	JUV.	%	ADULT	%	JUV.	%	ADULT	%	JUV.	%	ADULT	%		
FEMALE	944	18%	27,533	21%	825	18%	26,545	21%	948	20%	26,889	20%		
MALE	4,342	82%	104,136	79%	3,821	82%	102,455	79%	3,819	80%	104,494	80%		
TOTAL	5,286		131,669		4,646		129,000		4,767		131,383			

	2	2019			2	020	
JUV.	%	ADULT	%	JUV.	%	ADULT	%
622	17%	28,892	21%	359	16%	19,978	20%
3,090	83%	107,125	79%	1,870	84%	82,058	80%
3,712		136,017		2,229		102,036	







# Figure 19

#### CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT STATUTES FILINGS BY GENDER FOR 2011 **THROUGH 2015**

		111KOOGI1 2013										
		2	011		2012				2013			
	JUV.	%	ADULT	%	JUV.	%	ADULT	%	JUV.	%	ADULT	%
FEMALE	11	4%	552	22%	2,552	19%	34,646	22%	14	5%	546	22%
MALE	263				10,577 81% 119,415 78%				78% 272 95% 1884			78%
TOTAL	274		2,510		13,129		154,061		286		2,430	

	2	014		2015  JUV. % ADULT			
JUV.	%	ADULT	%	JUV.	%	ADULT	%
4	2%	585	22%	13	7%	600	23%
184	98%	2050	78%	168	93%	1963	77%
188		2,635		181		2,563	

### Figure 19a

#### **CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT STATUTES FILINGS BY GENDER FOR 2016 THROUGH 2020**

						CUGII	2020					
		20	016		2017				2018			
	JUV.	%	ADULT	%	JUV.	%	ADULT	%	JUV.	%	ADULT	%
FEMALE	12					4%	523	21%	5	4%	578	24%
MALE	127					96%	1,927	79%	120	96%	1,836	76%
TOTAL	139		2,441		133		2,450		125		2,414	

	2	2019		<b>2020</b>   JUV.			
JUV.	%	ADULT	%	JUV.	%	ADULT	%
10	6%	566	25%	6	7%	474	24%
144	94%	1,729	75%	84	93%	1,481	76%
154		2,295		90		1,955	

# Figure 20

# **TOTAL JUVENILE FILINGS BY GENDER FOR 2011 THROUGH 2015**

		2011			2012				2013			
	JUV.	%	ADULT	%	JUV.	%	ADULT	%	JUV.	%	ADULT	%
FEMALE	11	4%	3,029	19%	18	6%	2,552	19%	14	5%	1,898	19%
MALE	263	96%	13,080	81%	278	94%	10,577	81%	272	95%	8,304	81%
TOTAL	TOTAL 274 16,109				296		13,129		286		10,202	

	2	2014			2	015	
JUV.	%	ADULT	%	JUV.	%	ADULT	%
4	2%	1,535	18%	13	7%	1,121	18%
184	98%	6,859	82%	168	93%	5,189	82%
188		8,394		181		6,310	



**(** 



Figure 2	Figure 20a													
	TOTA	۱L JU۱	/ENILE	FILIN	GS BY	/ GEN	DER FO	R 2016	THR	OUGH	2020			
	2016 2017 2018													
	JUV.	%	ADULT	%	JUV.	%	ADULT	%	JUV.	%	ADULT	%		
FEMALE	12	9%	944	18%	5	4%	825	18%	5	4%	948	20%		
MALE	127	91%	4,342	82%	128	96%	3,821	82%	120	96%	3,819	80%		
TOTAL	139		5,286		133		4,646		125		4,767			

**(** 

	2	019			2	020	
JUV.	%	ADULT	%	JUV.	%	ADULT	%
10	6%	622	17%	6	7%	359	16%
144	94%	3,090	83%	84	93%	1,870	84%
154		3,712		90		2,229	

Figure 2	1												
	TO	TAL A	DULT F	ILING	SBY	GEND	ER FOR	2011	ΓHRΟΙ	JGH 2	015		
	2011 2012 2013												
	JUV.	%	ADULT	%	JUV.	%	ADULT	%	JUV.	%	ADULT	%	
FEMALE	552	22%	36,315	22%	517	21%	34,646	22%	546	22%	32,801	22%	
MALE	1,958	78%	126,685	78%	1,907	79%	119,415	78%	1,884	78%	114,878	78%	
TOTAL	2,510		163,000		2,424		154,061		2,430		147,679		

	2	014		2015					
JUV.	%	ADULT	%	JUV.	%	ADULT	%		
585	22%	32,543	22%	600	23%	32,492	22%		
2,050	78%	114,540	78%	1,963	77%	114,200	78%		
2,635		147,083		2,563		146,692			

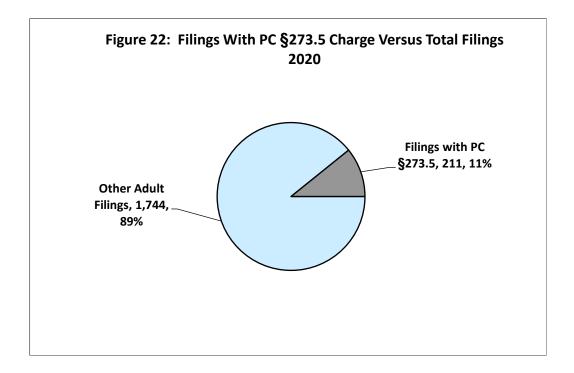
Figure 2	Figure 21a												
	TO	TAL A	DULT F	ILING	SBY	GEND	ER FOR	2016	ΓHRΟι	JGH 2	020		
2016 2017 2018													
	JUV.	%	ADULT	%	JUV.	%	ADULT	%	JUV.	%	ADULT	%	
FEMALE	625	26%	27,533	21%	523	21%	26,545	21%	578	24%	26,889	20%	
MALE	1,816	74%	104,136	79%	1,927	79%	102,455	79%	1,836	76%	104,494	80%	
TOTAL	2,441		131,669		2,450		129,000		2,414		131,383		

	<i>'</i>								
		2019		2020					
JUV.	%	ADULT	%	JUV.	%	ADULT	%		
566	25%	28,892	21%	474	24%	19,978	20%		
1,729	75%	107,125	79%	1,481	76%	82,058	80%		
2,295		136,017		1,955		102,036			









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#### **GLOSSARY OF TERMS**

**Accusatory Pleading** - An indictment, information, or complaint by which the government begins a criminal prosecution.\*

**Acknowledgment of Discovery** - A form signed by the defense attorney acknowledging the receipt or inspection of specified documents relating to the court case.

Adjudication - The legal process of resolving a dispute; the process of judicially deciding a case.\* In criminal court, this term generally means a determination of guilty or not guilty. When used to describe a proceeding in juvenile delinquency court, it describes the trial process under which the judge hears evidence as the trier of fact in order to determine whether a petition filed on behalf of the minor in court is found to be true (sustained petition) or not true (dismissed). As the purpose of a delinquency court proceeding is to determine the truth of the matter alleged and, if sustained, develop a rehabilitation plan on behalf of the minor, a true finding by the court resulting from an adjudication does not have the same consequences as a conviction for a similarly charged adult defendant.

**Adult** - Age when a person is considered legally responsible for his or her actions. For criminal actions, all persons 18 years of age and over in California are considered adults. In some cases, juveniles may be tried as adults.

Amend a Complaint or Information - One amends a complaint or information by adding or deleting from it. This must be approved by the court if objected to. It can be done either by interlineation or by submitting a new document containing the charges. Generally, a complaint or information is amended based on newly discovered evidence or to conform to proof presented at a court hearing.

**Appeal** - A proceeding undertaken to have a decision reconsidered by a higher authority; especially, the submission of a lower court's or agency's decision to a higher court for review and possible reversal.\* The appellate court may refuse to hear the case, affirm the lower court's ruling, or reverse or overturn the lower court ruling on the issue(s) being appealed.

**Appellate Court** - A court of review which determines whether or not the ruling and judgments of the lower court were correct.

**Arraignment** - The initial step in a criminal prosecution whereby the defendant is brought before the court to hear the charges and enter a plea.\* The defendant is given a copy of the complaint, petition, or other accusatory instrument, and informed of his or her constitutional rights.

**Arrest** - The physical taking of a person into custody for violating the law, the purpose of which is to restrain the accused until he can be held accountable for the offense at court proceedings. The legal requirement for an arrest is probable cause.

**Arrest Warrant** - A warrant issued by a disinterested magistrate after a showing of probable cause, directing a law-enforcement officer to arrest and take a person into custody.\*

**Bail** - A monetary or other form of security given to ensure the appearance of the defendant at every stage of the proceedings in lieu of actual physical confinement in jail.

**Bench Warrant** - A writ issued directly by a judge to a law-enforcement officer, especially for the arrest of a person who has been held in contempt, has been indicted, has disobeyed a subpoena, or has failed to appear for a hearing or trial.\*

Beyond a Reasonable Doubt - The burden of proof in a criminal trial. The California jury instruction defines reasonable doubt as: It is not a mere possible doubt; because everything relating to human affairs is open to some possible or imaginary doubt. It is that state of the case which, after the entire comparison and consideration of all of the evidence, leaves the minds of the jurors in that condition that they cannot say they feel an abiding conviction of the truth of the charge.

**Booking** - An administrative record of an arrest made in police stations listing the offender's name, address, physical description, date of birth, employer, time of arrest, offense, and the name of arresting officer. Photographing and fingerprinting the offender are also part of the booking process.

**Burden of Proof** - A party's duty to prove a disputed assertion or charge.\*

**Case Law** - Law derived from previous court decisions, as opposed to statutory law which is passed by legislature.

Certified Plea - Occurs when a defendant pleads



guilty or no contest to a felony charge.

**Change of Venue** - Moving the trial away from the responsible judicial jurisdiction to another to obtain an impartial jury (usually done when pre-trial publicity prevents the selection of an impartial jury in the court of original jurisdiction).

**Charge** - A formal allegation that a person has committed a crime.

**Charging Document** - Generic term used in place of complaint, information, or grand jury indictment. The document lists the date of the crime and the code section which defines the crime.

**City Attorney** - Prosecutor for a city. City Attorneys represent the people of a city and prosecute infractions and misdemeanors occurring within that city.

Classification of Crime - Crimes are designated as felonies or misdemeanors. Some crimes, called wobblers, can be designated as misdemeanors or felonies, by order of the court (PC §17(b)(5)) or request of the prosecutor (PC §17(b)(4)).

**Complaint** - A sworn allegation made in writing to a court or judge that an individual has committed one or more public offenses.

**Consolidation** - The combination of two or more charges documents into one. The charging documents can be for one or more defendants.

**Continuance** - The postponement of a court proceeding to a future date, with a time waiver.

**Conviction** - A judgment of guilt; this occurs as a result of a verdict by a jury, a plea by a defendant, or a judgment by a court that the accused is guilty as charged.

**Corpus Delecti** - The material substance on which a crime has been committed; the physical evidence of a crime.\*

**Count** - The part of a charging instrument alleging that the suspect has committed a distinct offense.\* In law enforcement, this is the number of offenses with which a suspect has been charged. For instance, one count of PC §211 (robbery) and two counts of PC §244 (assault with a caustic substance). In other criminal justice agencies (District Attorney's Office, courts, etc.) this is the sequence number identifying a charge on the

accusatory pleading document. For instance, Count 1 is for PC §211, Count 2 is for PC §244, and Count 3 is for PC §244.

**Court Calendar** - A list of matters scheduled for trial or hearing.

**Court Case** - A case that has been identified, numbered, and is recognized by the court system. Not to be confused with a District Attorney case (see below).

**Credit** - Time in days that reduces an inmate's sentence term. Credits are typically issued for "good time and work time" or time in custody already served by a defendant.

**Crime** - Any act that lawmakers designated as forbidden and subject to punishment imposed by the courts.

**De Novo Hearing** - In juvenile court proceedings, the rehearing where the judgment in the initial hearing is set aside and the new hearing takes place before a judge as if the first hearing never occurred. The de novo hearing may occur when the first hearing was held before a referee.

**Defendant** - The accused in criminal proceedings.

**Demurrer** - A written document filed (or plea entered) by a defendant that attacks the accusatory pleading for failing to state sufficient facts to constitute a public offense.

**Dennis H. Hearing** - An optional juvenile detention hearing requested by the defense to attack the sufficiency of the evidence presented by the District Attorney's Office that the minor has committed a crime or crimes which require the continued detention of the minor.

**Detention Hearing** - In delinquency court, a hearing held by a juvenile court to determine whether a juvenile accused of delinquent conduct should be detained, continued in confinement, or released pending an adjudicatory hearing.\*

**Determinate Sentence** - A jail term of a specified duration.\*

**Diagnostic** - In appropriate juvenile cases, the court has the power to order a diagnostic report from the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation, Division of Juvenile Justice regarding whether the juvenile would benefit from any of the

this is the sequence number identifying a charge on the whether the juvenile would benefit from any of the State of Child Abuse



programs offered by the Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation, Juvenile Division. In adult cases, the court can refer a convicted defendant to the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation pursuant to PC §1203.03 for a 90-day period and a diagnostic report recommending whether the defendant should be committed to state prison.

**Discovery** - Procedure whereby one party to an action gains information held by another party.

**Dismiss a Case** - To terminate a case without a trial or conviction.

**Disposition** - For juvenile offenders, the equivalent of sentencing for adult offenders. Possible dispositions are dismissal of the case, release of the juvenile to parental custody, place the juvenile on probation, or send juvenile to a county institution or state correctional institution.

**District Attorney Case** - When crimes are committed, law enforcement conducts an investigation, then submits its reports to the District Attorney's Office for filing consideration. If sufficient evidence exists to prove the case beyond a reasonable doubt, the reviewing Deputy District Attorney will file the appropriate charges. The charging document, police reports, attorneys' work product, and other evidence constitute the District Attorney case. A case may represent more than one defendant and more than one count. Both adult and juvenile District Attorney's cases have an internal number as well as the official case number issued by the Superior Court. The cases may be tracked in the District Attorney's Office internal computer system, PIMS (Prosecutor's Information Management System).

**Diversion Program** - A pretrial program that refers certain criminal defendants. especially youth offenders and first-time offenders, to rehabilitative community programs, the charges being placed on hold until, and ultimately reduced or dismissed after, benchmarks such as counseling for mental health, drug abuse, or employment are met.\*

**Docket** - A formal record in which a judge or court clerk briefly notes all the proceedings and filings in a court case.\*

**Double Jeopardy** - The fact of being prosecuted or sentenced twice for substantially the same offense. Double jeopardy is prohibited by the Fifth Amendment.\*

**Edsel P. Hearing** - A juvenile court hearing to determine if there is sufficient prima facie evidence to substantiate that a WIC §707b offense (which gives rise to the presumption that the juvenile is not fit to be tried as a juvenile) has been committed.

**Enhancement/Allegation** - Statutes that increase the punishment for a crime.

**ESCARS** - Electronic Suspected Child Abuse Report System accessible by all emergency response social workers, law enforcement officials, and prosecutors that provides information on current and prior instances of abuse and neglect involving children and families.

**Evidence** - Something (including testimony, documents, and tangible objects) that tends to prove or disprove the existence of an alleged fact.\*

**Expert Witness** - A witness qualified by knowledge, skill, experience, training, or education to provide a scientific, technical, or other specialized opinion about the evidence or a fact issue.\*

**Expungement of Record** - The removal of a conviction from a person's criminal record.\*

Family and Children's Index (FCI) - An application and database accessible by various county and city agencies that highlights, by date, victim, or address, an agency's prior contact, based upon the agency's "at risk" definition.

**Felony** - A serious crime usually punishable by imprisonment for more than one year or by death.\*

**Filing** - In the District Attorney's Office, this is the process where the prosecutor reviews the facts and evidence presented by law enforcement to make a determination as to whether crimes may be charged, and if so, what the appropriate charges are. The prosecutor evaluates the case to determine not only whether all of the legal elements of the crimes are present but also whether it is reasonably likely that the trier of fact could find the accused guilty beyond a reasonable doubt. Once the charging document is prepared in the District Attorney's Office, it is then filed in Superior Court.

**Fitness Hearing** - A hearing to determine if a juvenile should be tried as an adult rather than remain in the juvenile system.

**Grand Jury** - A group of citizens (usually 23 in



number) that investigates wrongdoing and that, after hearing evidence submitted by the prosecutor, decide by majority vote whether to indict defendants. Grand jury proceedings are conducted in secret and without the presence of the accused or his attorney.

**Habeas Corpus Proceeding** - A hearing to determine the legality of a person's confinement.

**Hearing** - A judicial session, usually open to the public, held for the purpose of deciding issues of fact or of law, sometimes with witnesses testifying.\*

**Held to Answer** - In felony cases, a magistrate decides at the preliminary hearing whether there is sufficient cause to believe the defendant is guilty of felony charges.

**Home on Probation** - A juvenile delinquency court disposition which allows a minor to remain in his home while complying with the terms and conditions of probation.

Home Supervision Program (HSP) - A program in which persons who would otherwise be detained in the juvenile hall are permitted to remain in their homes pending court disposition of their cases, under the supervision of a probation officer.

**Hung Jury** - A jury that is unable to reach agreement about whether a defendant is guilty or not guilty. This allows the prosecution to retry the case if it chooses unless the trial judge decides otherwise and dismisses the case.

**In Lieu of Filing** - A procedure where a probation violation petition is filed pertaining to the facts of a new crime instead of filing a new criminal complaint on those same facts.

**Indeterminate Sentence** - An open-ended sentence, such as from 25 to life, that gives correctional authorities the right to determine the amount of time actually served within the prescribed limits.

**Indictment** - A written accusation returned by a grand jury charging an individual with a specified crime after determining probable cause.

**Informal Probation** - Supervised probation of a juvenile offender. This status may be granted by a probation officer (in lieu of requesting the filing of a petition) or by the court (suspending the delinquency proceedings) prior to adjudication. This is similar to diversion in the

adult system.

**Information** - Like the complaint or indictment, a formal charging document.

**Infraction** - A crime that is not punishable by imprisonment.

In Propria Persona (also known as In Pro Per, or Pro Per) - Refers to a defendant who represents his or herself in a legal action. The defendant has a legal right to counsel but also has the right to self-representation. Before the court may accept a waiver to the right to counsel, it must satisfy itself that the defendant is making a knowing and intelligent waiver of that right. For capital (death penalty) cases in California, the court is statutorily obligated to appoint defense counsel even if the defendant asks to act as his or her own attorney.

**Interlineation** - The changing of a charging document, with court approval, by all parties writing the change on their copy of the charging document.

**Jeopardy** - The risk of conviction and punishment that a criminal defendant faces at trial. Jeopardy attaches in a jury trial when the jury is empaneled, and in a bench trial when the first witness is sworn.\*

**Joinder** - The joining of several offenses into one charging document which either arise from the same factual incident or are offenses of the same nature.

**Jurisdiction** - The type (e.g., territorial, subject matter, appellate, personal, etc.) or range of a court's or law enforcement agency's authority.

**Jury** - A group of citizens, randomly selected from the community, chosen to hear evidence and decide questions of fact in a trial.

Juvenile Court Jurisdiction - Under WIC §602, any person under the age of 18 years when he or she violates any law of California or the United States, or any city or county of California defining crime (other than an ordinance establishing curfew based solely on age), is within the jurisdiction of the juvenile court, which may adjudge such person to be a ward of the court, except in those circumstances where the offense provides that the juvenile may be tried as an adult.

**Law Enforcement Agency** - Agency with the responsibility of enforcing the laws and preserving the peace of its jurisdiction.



**Lawful Custody** - As used in reference to the Safe-Surrender law in PC §271.5, Health and Safety Code §1255.7 defines "lawful custody" as physical custody of a minor 72 hours old or younger accepted by a person from a parent of the minor, who the person believes in good faith is the parent of the minor, with the specific intent and promise of effecting the safe surrender of the minor.

**Minor** - Someone who has not reached full legal age; a child or juvenile.\*

**Minute Order** - An order recorded in the minutes of the court rather than directly on a case docket.\*

**Misdemeanor** - A crime that is less serious than a felony and is usually punishable by fine, penalty, forfeiture, or confinement in a place other than prison.\*

**Mistrial** - A trial that a judge brings to an end, without a determination on the merits, because of a procedural error or serious misconduct occurring during the proceedings,\* or due to a hung jury.

**Motion** - A written or oral application requesting a court to make a specified ruling or order.

**Motion to Dismiss Pursuant to PC §995** - A motion made in superior court to dismiss a case on one or more counts based on insufficient evidence produced at the preliminary hearing.

**Obscene Matter** - Pursuant to PC §311(a), this means matter, taken as a whole, that to an average person, applying contemporary statewide standards, appeals to the prurient interest, that taken as a whole, depicts or describes sexual conduct in a patently offensive way, and that, taken as a whole, lacks serious literary, artistic, political, or scientific value.

Office Hearing - The District Attorney's Office handles certain criminal situations in a non-courtroom setting with the objective of solving problems before they become more serious. These criminal matters are minor in nature. The hearing officer speaks to both parties and attempts to resolve the matter. If that fails, a decision is made whether to file, seek additional information, or not file a complaint.

**Petition** - A formal written request presented to a court or other official body.\* In juvenile court, the Probation Department requests the District Attorney's Office to file a petition for a juvenile. The charging document is called a petition in juvenile court, while the charging

document is called an indictment, information, or complaint in adult court.

**Petition (WIC §601)** - Juvenile charging document prepared by the District Attorney's Office (and occasionally the probation officer) for those offenses (typically matters involving incorrigibility) that are not violations of the law if committed by an adult.

**Petition (WIC §602)** - Juvenile charging document prepared by the District Attorney's Office for those offenses that are violations of the law if committed by an adult.

**Petition (WIC §777)** - Juvenile charging document prepared by the District Attorney's Office for those offenses that constitute a violation of probation (making it necessary to modify the previous orders of the court).

**Plea** - An answer to formal charges by an accused. Possible pleas include guilty, nolo contendere or no contest, not guilty, and not guilty by reason of insanity.

**Plea Bargaining** - The process whereby the accused and the prosecutor negotiate a mutually satisfactory disposition of the case. This is also known as a case settlement or negotiated plea.

**Preliminary Hearing** - A criminal hearing to determine whether probable cause exists to prosecute an accused person. If sufficient evidence exists, the case will be held to answer and an information will be filed. At the hearing, the prosecution must establish a prima facie case, that is, show that a felony occurred and to raise strong suspicion that the defendant committed it.

**Preponderance of Evidence** - The standard of proof in a civil trial. It is less than required in a criminal trial (i.e., beyond a reasonable doubt). Specifically, the weight of evidence for guilt is deemed greater than the weight of evidence for innocence.

**Pre-Sentence Report** - A report by a probation officer made prior to sentencing that diagnoses offenders, predicts their chance of being rehabilitated, recommends to the court that specific sentence elements be imposed upon the defendant, and addresses the danger they pose to society.

**Pre-Trial Hearing** - The pre-trial hearing is held to facilitate case settlement prior to the trial. Various motions may also be heard at the pretrial.



**Prima Facie** - A term that usually refers to the strength of evidence of a criminal charge. Prima facie evidence is sufficient to establish a fact or raise a presumption unless disproved or rebutted; based on what seems to be true on first examination, even though it may later be proved to be untrue.\*

**Probable Cause** - A reasonable ground to suspect that a person has committed or is committing a crime or that a place contains specific items connected with a crime.\* The evidentiary criterion necessary to sustain an arrest or the issuance of an arrest or search warrant; less than an absolute certainty or "beyond a reasonable doubt" but greater than mere suspicion or "hunch."

**Probation** - A procedure whereby a convicted defendant is not punished by incarceration alone but is released for a designated period of time subject to conditions imposed by the court. One of the conditions of probation can be a period of incarceration in local (county) institutions.

**Probation Violation** - When a person does not abide by one or more of the conditions of his probation.

**Probation/Sentencing Hearing** - A hearing after a defendant has been found guilty or pled guilty where the sentence is imposed.

**Register of Action** - A formal record of the events that have occurred in a superior court case maintained by the court clerk.

**Registration** - Pursuant to PC §290, persons convicted of certain sexual offenses must give all pertinent identifying information to the law enforcement agency in the area where they live and, if applicable, where they attend a university, college, or community college within a certain time period. This requirement is often for life.

Safe-Surrender Site - As defined in Health and Safety Code §1255.7, (a) a location designated by the board of supervisors of a county to be responsible for accepting physical custody of a minor child who is 72 hours old or younger from a parent or individual who has lawful custody of the child and who surrenders the child pursuant to PC §271.5 and (b) a location within a public or private hospital that is designated by that hospital to be responsible for accepting physical custody of a minor child who is 72 hours old or younger from a parent or individual who has lawful custody of the child and who surrenders the child pursuant to PC §271.5.

**Sealing of Records** - The act or practice of officially preventing access to particular records, in the absence of a court order.\*

**Search Warrant** - A judge's written order authorizing a law enforcement officer to conduct a search of a specified place and to seize evidence.\*

**Sentence** - The criminal sanction imposed by the court upon a convicted defendant. When there are multiple charges, the court may sentence concurrently or consecutively. If the sentences are concurrent, they begin the same day and sentence is completed after the longest term has been served. If the sentence is to be served consecutive to another charge, the defendant must complete the first sentence before the other term of incarceration begins. Within one court case, sentences for charges can be consecutive and if the defendant has more than one court case, sentences for each court case can be consecutive.

**Severance** - Can involve the separating of two or more defendants named in the same charging document. Also, can involve the separating of two or more charges against a defendant into multiple cases.

**Stay** - A judicial order whereby some action is forbidden or held in abeyance until some event occurs or the court rescinds its order.

**Submission on Transcript (SOT)** - If the defendant waives his right to a jury trial and the right to confront and cross-examine witnesses, and the Deputy District Attorney concurs, the case may be submitted to the judge on the preliminary hearing transcript.

**Subpoena** - A court order directing a person to attend a court proceeding.

**Subpoena Duces Tecum (SDT)** - A court order directing a witness to bring to court documents that are under the witness' control.

**Sustain the Petition** - The judicial finding in a juvenile delinquency case. If the court finds the allegations to be true, it sustains the petition; this is functionally equivalent to a guilty verdict. If the petition is not sustained, the court will find the petition not true; this is functionally equivalent to a not guilty verdict.

**Trier of Fact (also known as the Fact Finder)** - Hears testimony and reviews evidence to rule on a factual issue. In a preliminary hearing, a magistrate is the trier of fact. In a jury trial, jurors are the triers of fact. In a



court trial, the judge is the trier of fact. In all instances, the court rules on the law.

**Venue** - The place designated for trial.

**Vertical Prosecution** - The prosecution of a defendant whereby a specific prosecutor is assigned for the duration of the case.

**Witness** - One who gives evidence in a cause before a court and who attests or swears to facts or gives or bears testimony under oath.

**Wobbler** - A criminal offense that is punishable as either a felony or a misdemeanor.

**Writ** - An appellate remedy seeking an order from a higher court either to mandate or prohibit action in the lower court where the criminal case is pending.

\*Definition from Black's Law Dictionary, (10th ed. 2014)









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# PUBLIC DEFENDER'S OFFICE

The Public Defender's Office provides legal representation to indigent individuals in the adult and juvenile delinquency courts of Los Angeles County as well as in state and federal appellate courts. Celebrating 100 years in 2014, the Los Angeles County Public Defender's Office is both the oldest and the largest full service local governmental defender in the United States. During Fiscal Year 2020-21, the Office was led by Public Defender Ricardo D. García, Justine Esack as Chief Deputy and William Stone as our Chief of Staff.

#### **Vision and Mission Statements**

#### **VISION:**

The Los Angeles County Public Defender's Office is the finest client-centered criminal defense firm in the nation, providing a beacon for evolutionary and revolutionary changes in the justice system.

#### MISSION:

By 2025, measurably reduce incarceration and the collateral consequences of contact with the criminal justice system in Los Angeles County.

#### **VALUES:**

**Advocacy**: We are zealous Defenders, working relentlessly to meet the needs of our clients.

Compassion: We listen to our clients, respect their life experience, and tell their story.

Dedication: We are passionate about indigent defense.

Collaboration: We work with County and community stakeholders to achieve our clients' goals.

The Department strives to defend the liberties of indigent clients, protect their rights, and advocate for clients' access to resources in order to be productive members of the community.

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With offices in 33 separate locations throughout the County, in Fiscal Year 2020-21, the Public Defender's Office had 1,095 budgeted positions. There were 667 Deputy Public Defender I through IV attorney positions in addition to 38 managing attorney positions. Integral to the collaborative team are Public Defender-employed paralegals, psychiatric social workers, investigators, secretaries, and clerical staff.



The Public Defender represents clients:

- 1. Charged with felony and misdemeanor offenses;
- 2. Charged in juvenile delinquency cases;
- 3. In sexually violent predator cases;
- 4. Facing mental health commitments;
- 5. Facing civil contempt matters;
- 6. In pre-judgment appeals and writs; and
- 7. In post-conviction matters including but not limited to areas of police misconduct, intimate partner battering and its effects, claims involving factual innocence based on DNA, Senate Bill 1437 hearings, non-citizen client support, Franklin hearings, and Assembly Bill 109 revocation hearings.

Beginning FY 2020-21, a new method of collecting data for felony and misdemeanor cases was employed. Below is data with new descriptions:

### Felony Representation:

- 29,234: Number of felony cases assigned to the Public Defender by the courts (number of cases assigned is a measure of unique cases that are assigned to the Public Defender by the courts)
- 52,137: Number of attorney case assignments allocated to felony cases (Public Defender regularly assigns distinct specialized attorneys to a case at different stages of a case. This number represents how many times attorneys are assigned to cases)
- 336,678: Number of court hearings in which the Public Defender represented a criminal defendant

#### Misdemeanor Representation:

- Number of misdemeanor cases assigned to the Public Defender by the courts (number of cases assigned is a measure of unique cases that are assigned to the Public Defender by the courts) – 70,778
- Number of attorney case assignments allocated to misdemeanor cases (Public Defender regularly assigns distinct specialized attorneys to a case at different stages of a case. This number represents how many times attorneys are assigned to cases) – 104,491
- Number of court hearings in which the Public Defender represented a criminal defendant – 582,275

While continuing to provide the highest quality legal representation to clients in a cost-effective

manner, the Public Defender's Office also devotes its resources to facilitate broad justice system improvements for all its clients. This includes programs and initiatives designed to produce positive lifestyle outcomes for children, their families, and the communities in which they reside. The Public Defender actively participates, often in a leadership role, in numerous criminal justice interagency committees and projects designed to focus on the issues faced by communities at risk. Such inter-agency collaborations craft creative solutions to effectively resolve those issues by addressing the root causes of criminal behavior. The Public Defender recognizes that effective advocacy can only occur in the context of understanding the unique needs of the individual client, including the developmental, educational, psychological, and sociological history of everyone represented.

# SPECIAL PROJECTS OF THE PUBLIC DEFENDER

#### Rapid Diversion Program (RDP)

Los Angeles County operates the largest jail system in the United States, holding more than 14,000 people daily on average in 2020, nearly 38% of which have a serious mental health disorder. Residents of color are disproportionately incarcerated, with Black residents accounting for only 8% of the total County population but 30% of those imprisoned. Over 44% of all people in the jail system are held pretrial before any conviction, with a median length of stay of six days. This means that some of LA County's most vulnerable individuals are cycling in and out of jails without receiving the meaningful care or the services they need. And during the COVID-19 pandemic, some prisons' infection rates were 40% or higher than average—with inmates not afforded social distancing protocols. To reduce the virus's spread, the County reduced inmates by 20%. However, jails still house many nonviolent offenders and those whose age or preexisting conditions make them especially vulnerable to the virus. These shocking numbers reflect the broader history of the intersections between race, health, and incarceration across not just LA County but also the entire United States.

Over the past few decades, Los Angeles County, like much of the United States, has seen steady increases in the arrest and incarceration of individuals with serious mental health issues, a phenomenon also known as the "criminalization of mental illness." To assist this vulnerable population, our Department,



along with the Alternate Public Defender's Office, developed the Rapid Diversion Program (RDP), with technical assistance from the Center for Court Innovation and with support from the MacArthur Foundation's Safety + Justice Challenge grant. Since 2019, the RDP has diverted individuals with behavioral health diagnoses out of the criminal justice system and into treatment and services. In 2020, the County launched its Alternatives to Incarceration Initiative (ATI) and enveloped RDP's growth in its reach.

RDP was designed to quickly identify and link to services misdemeanor and felony defendants who are eligible and suitable for mental health diversion pursuant to Penal Code section 1001.36.

Operating in the Downtown, Airport, Long Beach, Van Nuys, Lancaster, and Compton courthouses, RDP's greatest benefits are the broad pool of candidates for whom it can provide services, the speed in which it assesses and links eligible candidates to treatment, its approach of providing each individual with a case manager, and its ability to avoid lengthy court hearings by seeking consensus from all stakeholders on eligible and suitable cases.

At each participating courthouse, RDP is overseen by an attorney coordinator and consists of a clinical team comprised of a clinician, service navigator, case manager, and a driver. RDP candidates are referred for same-day evaluations by the clinician, who will determine if the candidate meets the statutory requirements for mental health diversion and identify needed services. Candidates are then referred to the navigator, who identifies programming, which may include inpatient and outpatient treatment, psychiatric care, medication support, therapy, housing, transportation, and benefits assistance. Candidates are then referred to the prosecutor for approval, and then to the court with a joint recommendation for diversion.

Since inception, RDP has successfully diverted more than 350 people, with a current success rate of 95% among graduates (no new cases since graduation).

#### THE BAIL PROJECT

The Bail Project, the first national non-profit organization designed to combat mass incarceration by challenging the money bail system, post bonds on behalf of indigent individuals detained pretrial, and then provides court reminders and transportation

to ensure attendance at set court dates. The Public Defender's Office began its collaboration with The Bail Project (TBP) in 2018 as a pilot program at the Compton courthouse, with UCLA law students writing and filing bail reduction requests. The pilot was so successful that it expanded in 2019 to the Van Nuys courthouse and in July 2020, began offering its services at every courthouse countywide. In addition to helping disrupt the cash bail system, TBP also refers people to supportive services including housing, drug counseling, childcare, and much more. Since assisting Los Angeles County pretrial detainees, TBP has posted 597 bonds. Ninety-seven percent of the individuals have returned for their court appearances.

The Bail Project National Revolving Bail Fund is a critical tool to prevent incarceration and combat racial and economic disparities in the bail system. It provides free bail assistance to low-income individuals who are legally presumed innocent, and whom a judge has deemed eligible for release before trial contingent on posting bail. Clients return home to their families and communities while awaiting their future court dates.

#### **CLIENT CASE MANAGEMENT SYSTEM (CCMS)**

On October 29, 2020, the Public Defender went live with its first ever use of a consolidated Client Case Management System (CCMS). CCMS is a historic technological advancement for the office and our practice—it is the first and the most extensive, client-centric, case management system designed from the ground up by public defenders for public defenders. CCMS is a person-centric case management system that focuses not only on case management but also on all individuals involved in the legal system, including clients, witnesses, experts, law-enforcement officers, prosecutors, and judges. CCMS creates a digital twin of case files and seamlessly links related information together, providing a 360-degree view of clients' information, securely accessible through the web from any device, anywhere.

Our Department undertook a huge project to shift the entire office to digital data. Over 8.2 million case records and 6.7 million documents from multiple independent legacy systems were migrated into a consolidated, unified, federated, people-centric modern platform resulting in significant cost-savings and benefits. CCMS provides user-friendly preparation tools that enable staff to work up cases

State of Child Abuse

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and answer questions related to a person, charge, event, and disposition. CCMS allows staff to provide real-time statistics through report building and dashboards to ensure equitable distribution of work and also enables users to maintain and access a virtual file cabinet storing all case-related documents and video/audio digitally.

The volume and nature of evidence has grown vastly more complex in recent years, now including more audio and video files, bodycam footage, and other elements that make case file management more critical than ever. By integrating CCMS with Box and Azure Video Analyzer for Media, PD staff can store all digital materials related to a case and various digital media. A case can have over 20 videos and 100 or more human faces in images. Azure's Artificial Intelligence algorithm allows Public Defender Staff to detect, recognize and analyze critical, informative video related to a case.

With built-in tools, CCMS has enabled collaboration among staff/teams and court-appointed experts and also has the capability for one- or two-way integration with other departments such as the Alternate Public Defender, District Attorney. Lastly, with a flexible, scalable architecture and readily available plug-ins, CCMS's functionality can be seamlessly extended to accommodate new legislation, future challenges, and on-demand business needs.

# PROPOSITION 47/EXPUNGEMENT LEGAL CLINICS

In November 2014, California voters passed legislation (Penal Code section 1170.18) which gave individuals convicted of specific felony offenses (e.g. drug possession, grand theft, second degree burglary, writing bad checks, petty theft with a prior, etc.) the opportunity to apply or petition for a reduction of a felony conviction to a misdemeanor conviction. Originally, the State law mandated a three-year sunset date for filing petitions and applications. However, in 2016, the California Legislature extended the filing deadline until November 4, 2022. A bill currently pending in the legislature seeks to eliminate this sunset provision.

The Los Angeles County Public Defender's Office identified approximately 800,000 cases, and possibly 500,000 individuals, potentially eligible for relief under the law. To create awareness among the population impacted by the law, the Department sent letters to those convicted in Los Angeles

County courts, informing them of the new law and its benefits. As of February 2022, the Department has reviewed almost 75,321 cases and filed an estimated 50,008 Prop 47 petitions.

As part of its commitment to reaching out to communities, the Public Defender conducts legal clinics in neighborhood settings where PD employees replicate a good deal of the post-conviction work usually done in their offices. Attorneys and paralegals review court information to determine whether clients are eligible for post-conviction relief (e.g. Prop 47, expungement, Certificate of Rehabilitation, etc.,) and assist them with completing the necessary court documents. Department representatives file the documents with the court and provide required notice to prosecuting agencies, thus saving clients the time and expense of doing so themselves.

Since 2015, the Department has participated in approximately 329 Prop 47/Expungement Legal Clinics and community events, serving 2,439 clients. Through this work, the Public Defender has built collaborative and productive relationships with community, labor groups, community colleges, and County departments. Due to the Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic, all in-person community clinics were halted. Individuals may complete our intake form at https://pubdef.lacounty.gov/prop47/contact/ or visit one of our Public Defender offices for assistance.

#### **JAIL MENTAL HEALTH LIAISON**

The Jail Mental Health Liaison (JMHL) program is a collaborative project with the Sheriff's Department, the Department of Health Services, and the Department of Mental Health to improve services to incarcerated mentally ill and developmentally disabled clients throughout the criminal justice process. This pilot program commenced in 2015 with grant funding. The JMHL program consists of a Public Defender Psychiatric Social Worker (PSW) who is co-located in the jail. The PSW works with clients who have cases in the Airport and Van Nuys courts.

The PSW has direct access to Public Defender clients throughout the jail. Conversations between the PSW and client are protected under attorney-client privilege. The PSW promptly conveys critical mental health information to the clients' attorneys. The program's PSW works closely with the attorney to develop disposition plans linking the client to



mental health services. Case resolutions are tailored to meet clients' mental health needs, thus leading to better outcomes.

The PSW also collaborates with the Sheriff, Department of Health Services, and the Department of Mental Health to ensure that clients with mental health problems receive appropriate in-custody and post-release services and programming. Sheriff jail staff notifies the PSW about clients who need assistance and attention. At the request of the Sheriff, the PSW may intervene when a client refuses to go to court or take medication. Consequently, problems are addressed immediately.

Since 2016, the Jail Mental Health Liaison Program has served over 1579 clients, and 375 forcible cell extractions were prevented. In 2017, the Public Defender's Jail Mental Health Liaison Program was awarded the Silver Eagle Award from the LA County Quality and Productivity Commission.

#### **COMMUNITY COLLABORATIVE COURTS**

The Community Collaborative Courts program (CCC) is designed to provide treatment to the most vulnerable populations in the criminal justice system. Persons accepted into the CCC include those suffering from mental illness and substance use disorder, veterans, victims of sex trafficking, and at-risk transitional age youth. Most of these persons are charged with felony offenses or facing pending felony probation violations. For many of these persons, the CCC is the final alternative to prison. All Collaborative Courts are available as a treatment alternative to incarceration pre-plea via Mental Health Diversion. Substance Use Disorder is recognized as a mental health condition and can be utilized, along with other qualifying health conditions, as a basis for mental health diversion.

Persons referred to the CCC are screened by the Probation Department for their suitability. The Department of Mental Health will also screen referrals if mental illness is suspected.

If a person is accepted into the CCC, the person is placed on probation for two to five years and then supervised by the Probation Department for the term of probation or placed on Mental Health Diversion for a period of up to two years pursuant to Penal Code Section 1001.36. The CCC's criminal justice partners will agree on a treatment program that is tailored to meet the person's needs. The person's participation

in the treatment program is a condition of their probation or Mental Health Diversion. Programming can include residential treatment, sober living with out-patient treatment, and community after-care. For those with mental illness, the Department of Mental Health may place the person in a residential mental health program or into a Full-Service Partnership if the person has out-patient status. The person may earn a dismissal under Penal Code section 1203.4 or Penal Code Section 1001.36 upon successful completion of the CCC.

The CCC started in December 2015. It currently is in operation in four courthouses: Central, Van Nuys, Compton, and Long Beach.

#### WOMEN'S RE-ENTRY COURT

Many women cycle daily through the doors of the Los Angeles County criminal justice system, the county jails and state prisons, and then back into the community without the appropriate services and programs to address the underlying issues that brought them into the system in the first place. The complex needs of women - surviving sexual and physical abuse, domestic violence, severe trauma, and chronic addiction have been well documented. Many of these women enter the criminal justice system, and over 60 percent face non-violent drug and property crimes. This rapid influx of women into the criminal justice system has resulted in an increased demand for appropriate evidence-based, gender-responsive programs for women in lieu of incarceration and/or upon parole. These programs are designed to break the cycle of substance abuse and crime and to positively impact the children of women offenders who are at high risk of continuing the intergenerational patterns of drug abuse, criminal behaviors, and neglectful parenting.

Research confirms that the pathways to crime for women are different than for men:

- Most women offenders have mental health disorders;
- Four in ten were physically or sexually abused before age 18;
- 64% of women imprisoned in California are mothers;
- Nearly one-third have children under the age of six; and
- Half of these individuals were living with their children in the month prior to their arrest.

Data Report 2022.indd 221 5/16/2023 1:32:03 PM



(Petersilia, Joan (2006) Understanding California Corrections: A Policy Research Program Report. California Policy Research Center, 1-88).

Few initiatives have focused specifically on treatment and services for women offenders. The Los Angeles County Public Defender has played a leadership role from concept to implementation of the Women's Re-entry Court (WRC). This first-in-California, second-in-the-country, alternative program combines individually designed wraparound services in a residential facility with intensive judicial supervision for women defendants, including those with children, who face felony charges and an imminent jail or state prison commitment. The WRC is part of a long-term strategy to enhance public safety and promote individual accountability by addressing and treating underlying substance abuse and mental health issues through education, parenting classes, job preparation, and housing stability. Such a comprehensive approach promotes the successful return of formerly incarcerated individuals into local communities.

The WRC program is voluntary, and only candidates facing a sentence in jail or prison are considered for the program. The WRC model contemplates programming of up to two years, starting with residential treatment of at least 60 to 180 days at Prototypes Women's Center in Pomona, followed by intensive outpatient programming at Prototypes of up to a year, with an additional six months of aftercare. The WRC court actively monitors the women's program progress and orders them to court for regular updates and to address any issues of concern.

The WRC alternative sentencing drug court represents a multi-agency collaborative effort of the following Los Angeles County partners:

- Countywide Criminal Justice Coordinating Committee
- Department of Mental Health
- Los Angeles Superior Court
- Public Defender's Office
- Alternate Public Defender's Office
- District Attorney's Office
- Probation Department
- Sheriff's Department
- Los Angeles City Attorney's Office
- Prototypes
- Drug Medical and Substance Abuse Prevention and Control (SAPC), under the auspices of the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health

The WRC women participants are chosen by members of the WRC Team, including their lawyers from the Public Defender and Alternate Public Defender, the District Attorney, and the bench officer who presides over the WRC. The drug court model combines intensive supervision, mandatory drug testing, mental health treatment where needed, positive reinforcement, appropriate sanctions, and court-supervised treatment to address the issues of addiction and criminal activity.

Following acceptance into the WRC, Prototypes conducts an in-depth, needs-based assessment and designs specific and appropriate wrap-around services including:

- Women-focused, evidence-based substance abuse treatment
- Evidence-based trauma treatment
- · Mental health care
- Health and wellness education
- Education & employment training/placement
- Legal services
- Mentorship programs
- Financial management support
- Child support & family reunification services, where appropriate
- Domestic violence education & domestic violence/trauma counseling
- Transportation and child-care
- Case worker support

Women may bring with them into the residential treatment program up to two children twelve years of age or younger. Child development specialists work directly with the children and interface with the Department of Children and Family Services regarding reunification plans, where appropriate, thereby positively impacting the next generation.

The University of California at Los Angeles Integrated Substance Abuse Programs conducted an extensive evaluation that was published in June 2011. The cumulative findings from the report indicate that high-risk women offenders can be successfully treated in the community. Participation and graduation rates exceed return to prison rates. None of the graduates were returned to custody. Re-entry women were receiving and receptive to an array of services, which were unavailable in the prison setting. In addition, the re-entry women had greater reductions in post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) and the corresponding symptoms of PTSD.



#### **VETERANS COURT**

The Veterans Court pilot program began on September 13, 2010. The program is a multi-agency collaborative effort of the Court, Public Defender, Alternate Public Defender, District Attorney, Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), and Public Counsel. This voluntary 18-month prison alternative program provides individually tailored reintegration, case management and treatment plans that promote sobriety, recovery, stability, social responsibility, family unity, self-reliance, and reduced recidivism. The Veterans Court is based on the Drug Court model, which combines intensive supervision, mandatory drug testing, positive reinforcement, appropriate sanctions, and court-supervised treatment to address veteran issues. The Veterans Court accepts veterans who have served in the U.S. military, are entitled to benefits through the VA, and suffer from post-traumatic stress disorder, traumatic brain injury, substance abuse, sexual trauma, and mental health issues related to their military service. The Veterans Court team includes a bench officer, Deputy District Attorney, Deputy Public Defender, Deputy Alternate Public Defender and the VA Outreach Specialist. Public Counsel assists the team on ancillary issues. Referrals to Veterans Court are made countywide by the participating agencies and privately retained defense counsel.

Prior to admission, the candidate is carefully screened for eligibility and suitability by the Veterans Court team and the treatment provider identified by the VA. The program is available to veterans who are currently charged with felonies or felony probation violations. Veterans who are facing serious or violent felony charges, and/or have prior "strike" convictions, are reviewed on a case by case basis. Treatment is selected by the VA and approved by the Veterans Court judge. VA benefits cover all expenses of the selected program. Once accepted into the Veterans Court program, the VA provides close supervision of the veteran and presents regular progress reports to the Veterans Court. The Veterans Court judge then orders the veteran to participate in the treatment program and comply with any other terms and conditions of probation which the Court imposes. Court appearances to monitor the Veteran's progress are scheduled by the judge as appropriate to meet each individual veteran's needs and ensure compliance with the goals of the program.

The Veterans Court creates options within the

criminal justice system that tailor effective and appropriate responses for veteran offenders with post-service issues. It reduces recidivism, protects public safety, and reintegrates veteran offenders back into their communities by providing access to intensive treatment services and case management while minimizing incarceration. Not only does incarceration fail to address the veteran's military related disorders, it is costly and adds to the problem of jail overcrowding which has become even more critical due to AB109 Public Safety Realignment.

Finally, Veterans Court takes advantage of established federally funded treatment and service programs to reduce County costs. A review of the Veteran's Court program between July 1, 2016 and June 30, 2017, determined that participants received approximately 27,000 days of federally funded VA treatment and ancillary services, rather than incarceration or treatment at County expense. This participation equates to avoidance of State and County incarceration costs of over \$5,000,000.

#### **CO-OCCURRING DISORDERS COURT**

The Public Defender was a key collaborative partner in the creation of the Co-Occurring Disorders Court (CODC). Public Defender staff attended Mental Health Services Act Delegate's Meetings and was instrumental in voicing the need for such a court. The Public Defender is represented on the CODC Standing Committee. The mission of the Los Angeles County CODC Program is to provide both mental health and substance abuse treatment to those who voluntarily choose to enter into a contract with a court-supervised co-occurring disorders treatment program. Participants must engage in all phases of treatment with the hope of improving their quality of life, clinical functioning, and possibly further benefiting by the reduction and/or dismissal of criminal charges.

The Co-Occurring Disorders Court utilizes a non-traditional approach to case resolution for those who suffer from mental illness and addiction. Rather than focusing only on the crimes they commit and the punishments they receive, Co-Occurring Disorders Court also attempts to address some of their underlying problems. The Los Angeles County CODC, which held its first session in April 2007, is built upon a unique partnership between the criminal justice system, drug treatment community, and the mental health community which structures treatment intervention around the authority and personal



involvement of a single CODC judge. CODC is also dependent upon the creation of a non-adversarial courtroom atmosphere where a single bench officer and a dedicated team of court officers and staff work together toward the common goals of breaking the cycle of drug abuse and criminal behavior, promoting the stabilization of mental health symptoms.

The Public Defender screens clients for legal criteria eligibility while the Department of Mental Health screens for the clinical criteria. Candidates who are either not eligible or suitable for CODC are reconnected to other programs.

#### SENTENCED OFFENDER DRUG COURT

The Sentenced Offender Drug Court (SODC) is a substance use disorder treatment program that is available as an alternative to prison. SODC is designed for clients suffering from substance use disorder who have a sincere desire to become clean and sober. Once accepted into SODC, the participant is placed on probation for two to five years. Treatment begins with placement in a county jail treatment pod for 104 days. The participant is then placed in either residential treatment or sober living for 60 days followed by out-patient treatment. Upon the completion of SODC, the participant will earn a charge reduction and/or dismissal.

#### **LGBTQ PLUS COURT**

The newest addition to the Community Collaborative Courts is the LGBTQ Plus Court. This program provides treatment in a similar length and modality as the Women's Re-Entry Court with culturally competent services for members of the LGBTQ Plus community; the first county wide program to provide such services in Los Angeles County. In addition, this program provides services for men with co-occurring disorders, and does not exclude applicants based on charge. As such, this program additionally provides treatment for men who are similarly situated to participants in the Women's Re-Entry Court. The establishment of this program has addressed the critical need for services for both of these populations as an alternative to incarceration.

#### **MENTAL HEALTH COURT**

The Public Defender represents thousands of individuals annually in the Mental Health Court who are subject to criminal and/or civil mental health commitments throughout the county. Attorneys,

psychiatric social workers and paralegals provide a holistic team approach to advance the interests and well-being of our mentally ill client population. Advocacy for clients in programs and processes in the Mental Health Court include:

#### Conservatorships: LPS and "Murphy"

The Public Defender represents thousands of individuals, including minors, who, because of a mental disorder, cannot take care of their food, shelter or clothing needs, and the Public Guardian has petitioned the court to place on a conservatorship.

#### **Assisted Outpatient Treatment**

Assisted Outpatient Treatment is a program authorized by the Legislature to allow court-ordered outpatient treatment for adults with serious mental illness and a history of treatment noncompliance who are at substantial risk for deterioration and/or involuntary hospitalization or incarceration. Many of these individuals are homeless. This is a civil proceeding.

#### Not Guilty By Reason of Insanity (NGI)

An individual who was found NGI in the criminal proceeding is represented by the Public Defender in the Mental Health court in proceedings to determine whether the individual's commitment for treatment should be extended, or the individual should be released.

### **Involuntary Psychiatric Commitments**

The Public Defender provides counsel for those individuals who seek immediate release from an involuntarily commitment to a psychiatric hospital as a result of the extension of a Welfare and Institution Code section 5150 hold.

# Parole Hold Extensions - Penal Code Section 2970

If an individual with a mental illness is eligible to be released from a state prison but the mental health treating team is of the opinion the person remains a danger to themselves or others as a result of mental illness, the state may file a petition to prohibit the release and continue custodial mental health treatment. The Public Defender is appointed to represent these inmates/patients.



#### **GUIDING RE-ENTRY OF WOMEN (GROW)**

Guiding Re-Entry of Women (GROW): A Psychiatric Social Worker Program delivers needs assessments and treatment service referrals to divert women from state prison to alternative and appropriate community-based dispositions. Grant-funded by the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR), GROW is a Los Angeles County psychiatric social worker collaborative program between the Countywide Criminal Justice Coordination Committee (CCJCC) and the Offices of the Public Defender (PD) and Alternate Public Defender (APD). GROW was developed in response to recent evidence that could not be ignored: 74% of incarcerated women have been determined to be fitting candidates for community treatment alternatives in lieu of prison sentences. Utilizing three dedicated psychiatric social workers (PSWs), GROW aims to uplift as many women as possible by assessing each of their specific needs and connecting them to suitable mental health and substance use disorder services in our communities. In just eighteen months, GROW assisted 201 women, diverted 95 away from state prison, avoided nearly 870 years of confinement time and avoided roughly \$59 million in custodial costs. Other program benefits include, reuniting families, repairing communities, and various other financial benefits to the County, state, and local taxpayers.

The launching of GROW in September 2020 was an innovative expansion of the historical partnership between CDCR and CCJCC that began with the creation of the Women's Reentry Court (WRC) in 2007. A multi-agency collaborative program, WRC continues to this day to help reduce the number of custody sentences imposed and offers successful treatment for women charged with crimes, many of whom suffer mental illness, substance abuse and extensive trauma history. GROW expands the partnership's innovative efforts by employing PSWs to develop social histories on female clients facing state prison sentences. The social histories developed by the PSWs may be considered for alternative dispositions during the court process. The availability of a woman's social history encourages a holistic approach to her case and can be a supporting factor for diversion outcomes. Research has found that holistic defense models help reduce the imposition of a custodial sentence by 16% and sentence length by 24% ("Evaluating the Effect of Holistic Indigent Defense on Criminal Justice Outcomes," 2018 RAND Justice Policy report).

GROW psychiatric social workers perform the following holistic defense services:

- Collaborate with attorneys to identify the psychosocial needs of each client;
- Meet with clients, in or out of custody, to conduct psychosocial assessments, develop and review treatment and disposition plans;
- Interview family members and/or other relevant individuals for purposes of assisting with disposition recommendations/reports and memos;
- Request and review records in order to develop clinical recommendations;
- Provide all necessary services including wellness checks on clients in custody, client and family support, advocacy, consultation, linkage to services and referrals;
- Speak informally and/or formally on behalf of clients at court proceedings; and
- Collaborate with the primary mental health/ substance use providers and all stakeholders.

GROW's objective is to reduce recidivism by providing a resource for diverting women to alternative dispositions and tracking the outcomes of the rehabilitative efforts. Data collection is crucial and an integral portion of this collaborative program as it will inform our County's overall goal of reducing the population of women behind bars. Plans with CCJCC to fund an independent research entity to measure the impact of GROW is underway. The impacts to be measured, at a minimum, include: the number of state prison sentences and their length, recidivism outcomes, and an estimate of cost savings/ cost avoidance. Data collection also includes race/ ethnicity information as well as sexual orientation and gender identity. Other vulnerability factors are tracked, such as childhood trauma, experiences of homelessness, and struggles with mental health stability or substance use. Data will allow analysts to ascertain whether certain subpopulations of women disproportionately experience housing instability. for example, whether there are inequities in service gaps, and how we can best serve women at the fringe and envelope them into the fold.

#### **REGIONAL SOCIAL WORKER PROGRAM**

In January 2021, our Department launched the Regional Social Worker Program, comprised of four dedicated social workers to assist men specifically



facing prison sentences. The program operates in similar fashion as to the GROW program, detailed above, and is offered at every Public Defender branch office.

#### CRIMINAL RECORD CLEARING PROJECT

The Homeless Mobile Unit of the Los Angeles County Public Defender was launched in January 2018 with Measure H funds as part of an effort to improve the lives of individuals and families experiencing homelessness in Los Angeles County. The unit is made up of thirteen team members who bring the function of a law firm into the community to provide information about clearing warrants as well as reducing, dismissing, and expunging criminal records in order to clear a path for justiceinvolved individuals to obtain homes, services, and employment. The team collaborates with city and county agencies and community and faithbased organizations to provide effective and compassionate service to a vulnerable population. Service areas include community events, county offices which serve the homeless population, as well as riverbanks and encampments. Since 2018, the team has helped over 3,500 clients seek redemption from their criminal records to further their goals of reentering society as productive citizens. The Criminal Record Clearing Project received a 2019 Quality & Productivity Commission Special Merit Award.

#### OFFICE OF DIVERSION AND RE-ENTRY (ODR)

The Office of Diversion and Re-Entry (ODR) was created by the Board of Supervisors in September 2015. ODR has developed community-based programs which serve to reduce the number of incarcerated individuals in the LA County jail who suffer from mental health disorders by diverting them from the jail to the community through various court interventions while providing community-based treatment and housing. In collaboration with the Public Defender, Alternate Public Defender, District Attorney, and the Court, two ODR "Hub" courts have been established in the county and are located at the Clara Shortridge Foltz Criminal Justice Center (CJC) and the Airport court. Each hub court serves clients in the hub courthouse, and from designated referring Branch/District courts. The Public Defender received a 2019 Quality & Productivity Commission Special Merit Award for participation in the ODR program.

The CJC ODR Hub court opened in 2016 for clients

referred from CJC, and the El Monte, Pomona, West Covina, Burbank, Alhambra and Pasadena courts. The CJC ODR Hub hosts the ODR Post-Conviction Probation and Housing program, pretrial Mental Health Diversion (1001.36), and a Maternal Health program.

The Airport ODR Hub court opened April 2019. Referring courts include the Airport court, and the Compton, Long Beach, Norwalk, and Torrance courts. The Airport ODR Hub represents clients in the post-conviction ODR Probation and Housing program.

The Van Nuys ODR Hub opened March 2020 and received client referrals from the Van Nuys and San Fernando courthouses for the ODR Probation and Housing programs. In January 2022, the Van Nuys ODR Hub was subsumed by the CJC ODR Hub.

#### **ODR Post-Conviction Probation and Housing**

This program is for individuals who are incarcerated, have a mental health disorder, and are homeless. The ODR Post-Conviction Probation program attempts to resolve criminal felony cases early and divert individuals into ODR Housing and treatment with a grant of probation. The community intervention consists of three components: prerelease jail in-reach services, enhanced treatment (additional clinical assessments immediate initiation of medications, as indicated), and immediate interim housing upon release from jail in anticipation of permanent supportive housing. Clients on ODR Probation are assigned an Intensive Case Management Services provider who works with the client as they transition from custody to the community. The Intensive Case Management Services providers serve as the core point of contact for the client's medical, mental health, and other supportive services, such as addiction specialists, drug treatment, and assistance with public benefits.

#### **ODR Mental Health Diversion**

With the enactment of AB 1810 (PC 1001.36), ODR initiated a Mental Health (MH) Diversion program at the direction of the Board of Supervisors. Clients countywide are referred to the CJC ODR Hub for the MH Diversion program which targets individuals who are in jail, charged with a felony, have a qualifying major mental illness diagnosis, and experience homelessness. ODR provides supportive communitybased housing, intensive case management, and





clinical services to participants, with the goal of permanent supportive housing. The Probation Department provides pre-trial supervision. Upon completion of the MH Diversion program, a client's criminal case will be dismissed and sealed.

#### **Maternal Health Program**

Pregnant women in custody are 'diverted' by the court from the jail to the community with supportive services and housing through ODR. Most pregnant women served by ODR reside in specialized interim housing settings that allow women to remain with their children until they can move into permanent Women are placed into supportive housing. housing specific for their pre/post- partum needs and support for their babies, with the expectation they will remain with their child/children. ODR has access to numerous residential drug treatment sites for pregnant women as well. Each client is assigned a team which is generally comprised of a case manager, clinician, and an addiction specialist if needed. The team works closely with the Maternal Health Court, as well as with DCFS to effectuate reunification if there is an open case relating to other children of the mother. Clients are referred countywide to this program which is hosted in the CJC ODR Hub.

#### **ODR MIST/FIST Community Based Restoration**

In 2016, ODR initiated the Community Based Restoration program for individuals in custody who were found to be incompetent to stand trial. Misdemeanor Incompetent to Stand Trail (MIST) and Felony Incompetent to Stand Trial (FIST) clients are released from the jail and into the community for mental health treatment to restore their competency to stand trial. The goal is to connect clients to services which will continue beyond the criminal case as we scale up our efforts to end recidivism and incarceration of the mentally ill.

# DRUG TREATMENT COURTS AND PROPOSITION 36

The Public Defender was also a leader in creating and implementing the Drug Court Program in 1994. Drug Court is a collaborative program involving the Superior Court, Public Defender, District Attorney, and drug treatment providers to allow drug offenders with minimal criminal records to participate in a closely supervised drug treatment program instead of jail. Because of the tremendous success of this program

that began in downtown Los Angeles, twelve adult Drug Courts and four Juvenile Drug Courts now operate in Los Angeles County. Additionally, in 1998, a second collaborative effort resulted in the creation of the Sentenced Offender's Drug Court, a highly successful program involving more intensive and jail based therapeutic treatment as an alternative to prison for drug addicted offenders including parolees subsequently charged with new crimes.

Due to a budget shortfall and its impact on court operations, in 2009 the Superior Court integrated Proposition 36/Penal Code section 1210 cases in regular calendar courts pursuant to the normal matrix. Additionally, since the Governor eliminated Offender Treatment Program funds in 2009, and Federal Stimulus funds expired on September 30, 2011, Los Angeles County moved to a "fee for service" model for Proposition 36 treatment services on October 1, 2011. The County also revised its Services Matrix and created two levels of services based on risk level. Despite these challenges, Public Defender staff remain committed to accessing appropriate treatment services for all clients, including those qualifying under Proposition 36.

# COMMUNITY UNITING FOR RESOLUTION AND EMPOWERMENT (CURE)

For the past 11 years, the Public Defender's Office has been collaborating with the Los Angeles City Attorney's Office, the Alternate Public Defender's Office, and the Coalition for Responsible Community Development (CRCD) in the successful operation of a formal gang diversion court program for individuals charged with committing misdemeanor gang-related offenses. Community Uniting for Resolution and Empowerment, also known as CURE, has gained local recognition as a successful form of collaborative justice.

The program was formed with the common goal of reducing the rates of incarceration and recidivism among young adults aged 18-25 charged with non-violent gang-related misdemeanors in the City of Los Angeles.

CURE aims to impact young people that exhibit risk factors predictive of gang membership. In lieu of jail time and informal probation conditions, participants agree to complete an eighteen-month, supervised program after they enter a no contest plea. Successful participants receive education, vocational skills and job readiness training to earn a





reduction of the original charge(s) or a dismissal of their criminal case upon completion of the program and, in applicable cases, are encouraged to petition for removal from enforcement of the City's civil gang injunctions.

The eligibility screening process commences when the Deputy Public Defender (or other defense counsel) and the Gang and Gun Prosecution Section Deputy City Attorney assigned to the case review the file for CURE consideration. The City Attorney's Office reviews past criminal history and ensures that these individuals meet the eligibility requirements. Once approved, the PD partners with CRCD, a non-profit, community-based agency that assists each participant to create an intervention plan and set personalized goals.

Participants meet regularly with their CRCD case management team to receive assistance in one or more of the following areas: (1) obtaining a high school diploma or GED; (2) receiving mental health counseling; (3) attending a substance abuse program; (4) housing assistance; (5) job assistance; and (6) alternatives to engaging in the gang lifestyle. In addition, all CURE participants attend a monthly court appearance to enable all stakeholders to provide the court with a progress report and to hold each participant accountable for their success in the program.

Since May 2010, 144 individuals have been accepted to the program. Of those, 90 have graduated from the program and 5 continue to work toward successful completion. Clients who decline to participate in CURE when initially offered or refuse to continue with the program, may accept a traditional disposition. The project is funded through CRCD grants that are essential to the continued success of misdemeanor offenders' transition from jail to the community.

#### **IMMIGRATION UNIT**

As the oldest and largest public defender office in the nation, the Law Offices of the Los Angeles County Public Defender sets the statewide, and perhaps nationwide, standard of protecting the legal rights of vulnerable non-citizen residents from the immigration policies and operations of the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE). The Public Defender stands with immigrants as part of its commitment to the legal representation of members of vulnerable populations. True to this commitment,

the Immigration Unit has mobilized and expanded, strengthening capacity to preserve not just the liberty of clients, but also the homes, the jobs, and the integrity of the families of non-citizen clients.

To support non-citizen clients by fulfilling the Public Defender's Sixth Amendment obligation to advise all non-citizen clients of adverse immigration consequences triggered by involvement in the criminal justice system, the Office formed the Immigration Unit. From 2016 to December 2018, the Unit consisted of two lawyers and a paralegal. In December 2018, the Unit expanded by three lawyers. In March 2019, the Unit added another attorney and a law fellow. In June 2019, the unit expanded by four more lawyers.

Currently the Immigration Unit's main responsibilities include 1) keeping the Office compliant with its constitutional mandate under Padilla v. Kentucky (2010) 559 U.S. 356 by providing immigration advisements on pending cases and by training the Office's over-650 attorneys about the immigration consequences of involvement with the criminal justice system; 2) providing support on post-conviction matters; 3) monitoring ICE's detainer requests to the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department (LASD); and 4) engaging in appellate litigation on criminal-immigration matters.

# 1. Padilla Advisements, Immigration Status Screenings, and Training

"Padilla advisement" is shorthand for an analysis of the immigration consequences of involvement with the criminal justice system. Involvement with the criminal justice system that can trigger an adverse immigration consequence includes conviction of a crime, the sustainment of a juvenile delinquency petition, participation in a diversionary program, and even a single arrest. These advisements are not discretionary. Each attorney is mandated by U.S. Supreme Court and California precedents as well as by California statute to provide a Padilla advisement to every non-citizen client. Failure to do so can constitute ineffective assistance of counsel.

The Immigration Unit strives not only to meet the minimum duty mandated by the law, but to exceed it with a comprehensive analysis of immigration ramifications so that clients can make the most educated decisions possible. The Unit goes beyond advice on deportability and inadmissibility, to analyze and strategize eligibility for relief from



removal (e.g., removal defenses and waivers under the Immigration and Nationalization Act (INA), and post-conviction relief options under California law), as well as preservation of protections under the California Trust Act and the California Racial Justice

The complexity of Padilla advisements ranges from simple to convoluted. A client's prior convictions and penalties, date of entry or admission, familial relations, and immigration status must be considered relative to the client's life priorities. To give accurate advice, the Immigration Unit maintains a command of the intersections between immigration and criminal law by monitoring changes in state criminal law as well as changes in federal immigration precedential and statutory law. Notably, a complete Padilla advisement is not just a list of adverse consequences but also includes realistic alternatives and strategies to secure an immigration-safe disposition.

In 2019, the Immigration Unit broadened its capacity to provide technical support to our trial attorneys and to ensure that non-citizen clients receive the highest quality of representation. Given the recent changes in immigration law and the implications of the current presidential administration's position on immigration (e.g., Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA), Temporary Protected Status (TPS), Special Immigrant Juvenile Status (SIJS), Public Charge, and Asylum), the Unit's advisements have become ever-increasingly complex. A nuanced analysis of each non-citizen's situation is required to preserve their eligibility, or to re-qualify them for the forms of immigration status or relief that remain viable. In this dynamic legal and policy environment, the Unit lawyers also strive to identify, to evaluate and then to factor into training and advisements possible forthcoming changes in consequences and relief. Thereby, the Immigration Unit fulfills its predominant responsibility of providing line public defenders with Padilla advisements, as well as the additional service of screening non-citizen clients for affirmative immigration and post-conviction relief.

Presently, the Immigration Unit is based in the Hall of Records, with six attorneys housed there. Three attorneys are housed offsite, one each in the Clara Shortridge-Foltz Criminal Justice Center, Long Beach, and El Monte. Each attorney consults on immigration inquiries from deputy public defenders, other attorneys, and the public via telephone calls, emails, and text messages. Each Immigration Unit attorney is assigned two lunch duties per month.

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In this way, an Immigration Unit attorney is always available for consultation during business hours. Since January 2, 2019, the Immigration Unit has provided over 11,000 consults.

To further equip the deputy public defenders in meeting their Padilla duty, the Immigration Unit has hosted numerous trainings, including a mandatory office-wide training, ones with other public defender offices, and has produced webinars on various immigration issues. Members of the Unit have written articles and practice guides on various immigration topics including "All the Questions You have About Immigration but Were Afraid to Ask," "Special Immigration Juvenile of Minors," and "Two DUIs, a Roadblock to Lawful Status." Future plans include producing more webinars as well as instituting regular Immigration Unit office hours at the branches where deputy public defenders can bring cases to discuss the immigration consequences of various charges and alternate pleas. The Immigration Unit has also taken roadshow presentations to the branches, trainings that not only reinforce proper Padilla advisements but also address specific immigration issues that a branch is facing.

#### 2. Post-Conviction Relief for Current and Former **Public Defender Non-Citizen Clients**

Many current and former clients are at risk of being deported but are eligible for post-conviction relief that protects them from being deported or losing their eligibility to adjust status. Accordingly, every Immigration Unit attorney is assigned postconviction matters. Post-conviction relief advocacy encompasses motions under Penal Code sections 17(b), 1203.43, 1018, and 1473.7, and bringing motions under Proposition 47 and AB 1050. Additionally, the Immigration Unit frequently is asked by nonprofit organizations and private immigration attorneys serving non-citizens who are in removal proceedings to locate, to collect, or to copy documents relating to a non-citizen's prior criminal case, often including the public defender's file. Sometimes, individuals will request the Immigration Unit's help to obtain a certificate clarifying that they have no criminal record, which they need for their naturalization application. The Immigration Unit promotes its offering of these services through multiple avenues, such as by outreaching at public events, often in collaboration with the Criminal Record Clearing Project serving the homeless population, by encouraging the Office's attorneys to bring these post-conviction vehicles to our clients'

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attention, by coordinating between immigration and criminal counsel, and by participating on list servs and conference calls with leading members of the immigration bar.

The Immigration Unit also seeks to help non-citizen clients obtain legal representation in immigration proceedings and in filing applications for affirmative immigration relief. The Immigration Unit, for instance, refers clients and members of the public to the most appropriate immigration organizations under the Los Angeles Justice Fund. The Immigration Unit has been involved in meeting with various working groups to create a more efficient referral system for the LA Justice Fund. The immigration attorneys have expressed that they are unfamiliar with the criminal justice system, impairing their ability to efficiently screen clients with criminal convictions for appropriate immigration relief. Ultimately, in order to ensure that former clients can secure legal representation for their immigration cases, which dramatically increases their likelihood of success, the Immigration Unit must match needful former clients with the agency that has the appropriate funding mandate and expertise. This, in turn, requires the Unit to complete in depth screenings to determine the national background of the former clients, the immigration history and status of relatives and spouse, and the current immigration posture, and then to determine what forms of relief are available to him or her or them.

# 3. Overseeing Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department ("LASD") Response to Detainer Requests

Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) sends detainer requests to local law enforcement agencies asking the law enforcement agency to inform ICE when an inmate will be released or asking that the law enforcement agency transfer custody of an inmate to ICE custody. Because many inmates are or were clients, the detainer requests that are sent to LASD are forwarded by LASD to the Immigration Unit. Under the California Values Act. and the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors' directive limiting cooperation with immigration enforcement authorities, LASD is barred from turning non-citizens over to ICE unless certain enumerated exceptions apply. It is imperative that the Office know what happens to clients while they are in LASD custody and while they are in courthouses in order to advise clients accurately; and that we can appropriately tailor case-specific strategies. If in-custody or

anticipated to be, clients must know their rights under the Trust Act. Accordingly, the Immigration Unit prepares and, through the assigned deputy public defender, disseminates to clients a one-sheet rights primer, available in many languages. In order to ensure compliance with the California Values Act by law enforcement, the Immigration Unit monitors its implementation countywide, and advises Office leadership on ICE detainers and law enforcement response so that we can ensure that clients' rights under the Trust Act are honored. Consultations and training also ensure that line public defenders factor Trust Act protections into their immigration strategy.

In 2020, the Unite States District Court in Gonzalez v. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (CV-13-04416), issued a final judgment ruling that before issuing a detainer for an individual who has not been ordered removed and is not in removal proceedings. ICE must confirm the subject individual's identity through a biometric match, unless the individual has been interviewed by ICE; that all detainers issued before the court's ruling are void, and must be rescinded by ICE; that ICE may not issue a detainer to law enforcements in states that lack a state law permitting state and local law enforcement agencies to make civil immigration arrests; that ICE may never issue detainers based solely on database searches that reveal sufficient indicia of reliability for a probable cause determination for removal; and certain orders relating to the transfer of individuals to a location outside the Central District of California.

In support of the litigation leading to the Gonzalez decision, the Immigration Unit submitted its findings to the district court through a declaration and compared its findings with those of the Los Angeles County Inspector General. Since the ruling, the Immigration Unit has monitored compliance by local law enforcement and ICE.

### 4. Appellate Litigation

The Immigration Unit has been involved in filing letters and amicus briefs on important cases involving immigration consequences as a result of criminal convictions. The Department, through the Immigration Unit, was amicus in the Ninth Circuit in Ryan v. ICE, No. 19-1838, The Unit successfully persuaded the appellate court not to de-publish People v. Camacho (2019) 32 Cal.App.5th 998, which held that ineffective assistance of counsel need not be shown to establish a finding of legal invalidity to withdraw a plea under Penal Code





section 1473.7. It has filed letters in the California Supreme Court in support of a petition for review of a decision on a matter related to the intersection of immigration and criminal law.

In Villegas v. Superior Court (2019) B294683, the Immigration Unit drafted a letter with legal arguments to the Court of Appeal and successfully persuaded it to accept additional briefing after the court had issued a tentative ruling denying the writ of mandate and indicating that it was inclined to invalidate Penal Code section 1203.43 as unconstitutional. The Unit then authored and submitted an amicus-curiae brief that helped to successfully persuade the Court of Appeal to reverse its tentative ruling that PC 1203.43 is unconstitutional. Ultimately, the Court of Appeal issued an opinion in which it did not find section 1203.43 unconstitutional.

#### THE JUVENILE JUSTICE SYSTEM

During fiscal year 2020-21, the Los Angeles County Public Defender's Juvenile Division represented clients in 13,241 delinquency hearings. Our Office developed a once novel holistic defense approach that has come to serve as a model for public defender offices nationwide. For over twenty years, this holistic practice has been anchored by the Client Assessment Recommendation and Evaluation (CARE) Project through which clients are matched with in-house social workers and resource attorneys who specialize in mental health and educational advocacy. A tailored strategy is developed for each youth based upon a variety of personal factors. These strategies often lead to predisposition placements or inform a court's disposition.

Many youth enter the juvenile justice system with serious long-standing undiagnosed or unaddressed educational and/or psychosocial problems that significantly contribute to their troublesome behavior. The underlying issues are:

- · mental health disorders
- substance abuse problems
- cognitive learning disabilities
- developmental disabilities
- psychologic effects of sexual and/or physical abuse and neglect.

#### **Mental Health Issues**

The prevalence of mental health disorders among youth in the juvenile justice system is two to three

times higher than among youth in the general population, according to the National Center for Mental Health and Juvenile Justice. And, two-thirds of youth in the justice system have co-occurring disorders which compound challenges in diagnoses and treatment.

Among incarcerated youth, 50-to-75% have diagnosable mental health disorders and nearly half have substance abuse problems, per a report by Physicians for Human Rights entitled "Mental Health in the Juvenile Justice System." The report also indicates multiple studies have associated substance abuse with conduct disorder and/or attention deficit hyperactivity disorder. Research suggests the mental health disorder precedes the addictive disorder in more than 80% of these cases.

#### **Educational Issues**

According to the Juvenile Court Judges of California, 50% of all youth in the juvenile delinquency system have undetected learning disabilities. A study from the National Center on Education, Disability, and Juvenile Justice notes that youth in juvenile corrections exhibit learning disabilities at a rate three to five times higher than in public school populations.

State and federal special education laws mandate a continuum of educational program options for eligible students. Our attorneys and staff leverage available laws, including those that protect atrisk communities such as youth in foster care and those who are homeless, so juvenile clients have a meaningful opportunity to meet the same rigorous state academic achievement standards to which all pupils are held. A key strategy of the Department is to promote educational advancement and stability while holding responsible agencies, including school districts, accountable so each student has access to the academic resources, services, extracurricular and enrichment activities that are available to all pupils.

# Training Program in Furtherance of Holistic Approach

Our Juvenile Division's training program has a full-time trainer who concentrates on instructing incoming attorneys for each Juvenile branch office. All attorneys receive a minimum of 12 hours of training in such topics as child and adolescent brain development, special education, competence, and mental health issues.





In 1999, the Juvenile Division of the Public Defender's Office implemented its Client Assessment Recommendation and Evaluation (CARE) Project, one of the nation's first holistic advocacy programs. Since inception through June 2021, children have received CARE Project services in 28,805 cases. In FY 2020-21, 931 youth were served through the CARE Project.

The Public Defender adheres to the philosophy that effective advocacy must encompass a holistic approach individually tailored to the particular needs of each unique client. The CARE Project focuses on early intervention with youth in delinquency court by addressing the cluster of underlying causes of delinquent behavior such as mental illness, intellectual disability, developmental disabilities, learning disabilities, emotional disturbances, and trauma. By referring clients for evaluation, identification, and intervention at the pre-trial stage, the Public Defender focuses on abating the behaviors that prompted the filing of the juvenile petition in these cases. Members of the CARE Project team are able to provide the court with a better assessment of the youth's needs, present tailored recommendations for appropriate conditions of care, and identify resources that will assist the child and family. This approach enables the court to make orders that will foster accountability of both the youth and the juvenile delinquency system.

# Resource Attorneys and Psychiatric Social Workers

CARE operates within all seven juvenile branches of the Los Angeles County Public Defender's Office. During FY 2020-21, nine resource attorneys, eleven psychiatric social workers, and two supervising social workers were devoted full-time to CARE.

Psychiatric social workers assess a juvenile client's abilities and deficits to determine the youth's special needs whether developmental, emotional, or psychological. Thereafter, a deputy public defender may share the psychosocial assessment with the court. The information plays a key role in individualizing and humanizing each youth for busy bench officers who may not otherwise be provided insight of such depth. Based on the assessment, an individualized treatment plan – whether formal

or informal – is created to address the issues that put the youth at risk for delinquent behavior with the aim of significantly reducing the likelihood of recidivism. The psychiatric social workers also provide consultation services which include early intervention to identify needed services, referrals to community resources, client support during the court process, advocating for youth in their school systems, and recommendations for disposition plans in difficult cases. Social workers may also appear alongside resource attorneys at meetings and hearings in court, school districts, and at Regional Centers.

Resource attorneys advocate on behalf of juvenile clients to assure accountability by various outside agencies that are legally obligated to provide services addressing the youth's educational and mental health needs. For example, our resource attorneys appear at Individual Education Plan meetings, handle enrollment issues, expulsion proceedings, and a myriad of administrative hearings at schools to ensure youth receive appropriate special education services. Resource attorneys advocate at Regional Centers for eligibility and services, including handling all stages of the appeal proceedings.

Resource attorneys also garner Department of Mental Health entitlements for their juvenile clients and provide consultation for other Deputy Public Defenders on complicated cases involving children coming from the Dependency Court system.

A 2017 Resource Development Associates report found: (1) CARE clients who received extended services have significantly less subsequent contact with the juvenile justice system, and (2) CARE services appear to successfully help clients obtain desired dispositional outcomes. Over the past decade, the court has adopted 77% of the disposition recommendations. Judicial officers have stated that the evaluations are invaluable in better equipping the courts to identify youth with emotional or developmental issues. Channeling select resources to at-risk youth has proven effective in assisting them to deal with challenges faced outside the courtroom and beyond detention, ultimately reducing recidivism.

#### **CARE - AWARDS AND RECOGNITIONS**

 2006: California Council on Mentally III Offenders Best Practices Award; the only non-mental health court program that received the award.



- 2016-17: Resource Development Associates evaluated the CARE Project and found it to be a "highly effective approach to defense that results in reduced negative contact with the juvenile justice system and improved dispositional outcomes for clients."
- 2017-2021: Grant funded by the Juvenile Justice Coordinating Council under the Juvenile Justice Crime Prevention Act to hire six additional psychiatric social workers. The grant was renewed in 2019 and extended to provide a Mental Health Clinical Supervisor; the grant was renewed again in 2020 and 2021.
- 2018: Mega Million Dollar Award from the Los Angeles Board of Supervisors' Chief Executive Office's Quality and Productivity Commission. Bestowed for collaborating with key justice system stakeholders to provide youth with critical linkages to treatment and services in an innovative and cost-effective approach.

#### THE DIVISION OF JUVENILE JUSTICE (DJJ) UNIT

An experienced attorney and social worker are assigned to the Department's DJJ Unit. Together they monitor the care, confinement, and treatment provided to Public Defender youth at DJJ institutions, prepare youth for appearances at the Board of Juvenile Hearings (BJH), and represent realigned youth when released to the county for re-entry supervision, including participating in development of a re-entry plan prior to release. This comprehensive re-entry plan includes housing, counseling, and work-force development training.

The population of youth housed in DJJ facilities statewide has been significantly reduced from over 4,000 in 2004 to approximately 672 in 2021. Through a combination of recent legislative changes and our successful advocacy since 2004, the number of youth assisted has similarly decreased. As of June 30, 2021, the Public Defender DJJ Unit represented approximately 36 youth in DJJ institutions throughout the state and approximately 18 re-entry clients on supervised release after completing a DJJ commitment.

In September of 2020, Governor Newsom signed SB-823, ordering the closure of DJJ. Shortly afterwards, SB-92 passed and was signed into law in May 2021. The companion bills will close new commitments to DJJ except in very limited instances and announced a firm closure date of DJJ in its entirety by June

2023. Effective July 1, 2021, a client may only be committed to DJJ if they were subject to a transfer hearing. Youth under the age of 16 cannot be committed to DJJ, since they are no longer subject to being transferred to criminal court (SB 1391).

SB-92 created local Secure Youth Treatment Facilities (SYTF) to house, treat, and rehabilitate youth with the most serious offenses and the highest needs. The SYTF will be available for long-term commitments but only if the court deems that the youth is eligible, suitable, and for whom no less restrictive disposition is appropriate pursuant to WIC 875(a). The County of Los Angeles will be developing a SYTF in the near future.

#### **Advocacy While Client Is in a DJJ Facility**

While in DJJ, Public Defender clients maintain contact with their DJJ Unit attorney and social worker through in-person visits and phone calls. However, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, on April 8, 2020, DJJ temporarily suspended legal visitation at their four correctional facilities: Ventura, O.H. Close and Chaderjian in Stockton, and at Pinegrove Conservation Camp. This policy continues while there are active cases in the institutions. Since that time, our DJJ Unit personnel have vigilantly maintained communications, including videoconference "visits" and meeting in person, when permitted.

In addition to client contact, the DJJ Unit attorney and social worker develop working relationships with the clients' DJJ counselors and other staff at the institutions. They review DJJ documents to assess current treatment plans, attend IEP meetings, and advocate for vital special education services. If necessary, they work to ensure that clients are transferred to a different DJJ facility to receive the most appropriate counseling and services, thus enabling their clients to receive the best-available rehabilitative treatment plan.

The DJJ Unit also pursues law and motion work seeking relief under the Welfare and Institutions Code which requires judges to set a maximum term for sentences that is no longer than is necessary for rehabilitation (section 731(c)) and gives the juvenile court discretion to remove clients from DJJ institutions in cases where appropriate services are not being provided (section 779). Courts have granted these motions after holding hearings and finding DJJ services were inadequate or no longer necessary.

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#### **Advocacy When Client Is Released to County**

In 2011, Assembly Bill 1628 realigned responsibility for youth released from DJJ from the state to the counties, primarily to eliminate DJJ parole and shift this population to county supervision and aftercare. Therefore, since 2011, the Public Defender's Office has represented realigned youth from DJJ custody at their re-entry hearings, progress reports, and modification hearings.

The Public Defender DJJ Unit assists re-entry youth in forming relapse prevention plans, locating community-based organizations that provide treatment and housing, and finding an array of other services needed to successfully reintegrate the youth back into the community. They also provide post-conviction relief by working with former clients to file motions to dismiss and seal charges pursuant to Welfare & Institutions Codes 782 and 781.

#### **Working with Justice Partners**

The DJJ Unit has actively participated with justice partners to promote favorable legislation. For instance, the DJJ Unit successfully supported Senate Bill 625, which restored the ability of the Board of Juvenile Hearings to grant honorable discharges for youth who had been realigned to county supervision.

The DJJ Unit also worked on Assembly Bill 2595, which was signed in early 2019 and clarifies the language in WIC section 731(c), limiting sentences with DJJ confinement to periods deemed appropriate to achieve rehabilitation of the particular youth at issue. The DJJ attorney often appears at dispositional hearings to litigate maximum confinement time under this new legislation. The bill further makes clear that the court retains jurisdiction under juvenile court jurisdictional time limits (WIC section 607.1) and establishes conditions for the youth's supervision upon release from DJJ (WIC section 1766). This reaffirmation is consistent with promoting the realignment of responsibility and funding to the counties to provide evidence-based supervision, detention and rehabilitative services.

The DJJ Unit served as a member on the Los Angeles DJJ Task Force, a collaborative effort to meet the needs of DJJ re-entry youth. The DJJ Task Force was comprised of juvenile justice partners from the courts, District Attorney's office, Probation, Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation, and multiple community-based organizations. In its work on the Task Force, the DJJ Unit also interfaced

with members of the Mayor's office and various CBOs during monthly collaborative Blue-Ribbon Commission meetings that address issues relevant to DJJ re-entry.

The DJJ Unit also served on the DJJ Transition Team Task Force, a group formed by the Los Angeles Board of Supervisors to help create a local SYTF that meets the goals and needs articulated in both SB 823 and SB 92, while supporting the intent of the Youth Justice Reimagined Initiative.

#### **JUVENILE MENTAL HEALTH COURT**

The Public Defender's Office was integrally involved in the creation of the Juvenile Mental Health Court (JMHC), which began operating in October 2001 as a comprehensive, judicially-monitored program for juvenile offenders with diagnosed mental health disorders and whose crimes demonstrate a link to the diagnosed disorder or disability with the goal of reducing recidivism among the mentally ill population. A collaborative inter-agency team consisting of a judge, prosecutor, defense attorney, child psychiatrist and a psychologist (both from UCLA), probation officers, and an educational liaison, develop an individualized case plan for each eligible youth referred to JMHC. The plan includes home, family, therapeutic, educational, and adult transition services.

A Deputy Public Defender and psychiatric social worker work with the client's family, local mental health organizations, school districts, the Regional Center system, the Probation Department, and the Department of Children and Family Services to obtain every benefit to which the youth is legally entitled. Implementation of the plan is monitored intensively on an ongoing basis for two years or as long as the youth remains on probation.

Since its inception in October 2001 through June 30, 2021, JMHC has accepted 818 cases. In FY 20-21, JMHC accepted 21 new cases, 18 of which were Public Defender clients.

# SUCCEEDING THROUGH ACHIEVEMENT AND RESILIENCE (STAR) COURT

Federal law mandates that any person under the age of 18 who performs a commercial sex act is to be considered a human trafficking victim, not a prostitute. STAR is a collaborative, post-adjudication court whose goal is to provide a holistic approach to addressing the trauma and unique issues of trafficked youth. Counseling, suitable placement,



if needed, and education are top priorities. The resource attorney and others staffing STAR Court are specially trained regarding commercial sexual exploitation of children issues and providing trauma informed care.

STAR Court receives referrals from every juvenile court in Los Angeles County. The participants are identified by defense attorneys, deputy district attorneys, and juvenile bench officers. The average monthly caseload is 95. The Public Defender resource attorney handles 73% of the caseload with the remaining cases going outside our office.

Along with the Public Defender resource attorney, STAR Court is staffed by a deputy district attorney, probation officers, liaisons from the Department of Children and Family Services, Department of Mental Health, Department of Public Health, Los Angeles County Office of Education, as well as educational consultants from Public Counsel and Healthy Minds Consulting. Youth may also have mentors from community-based organizations such as Saving Innocence and ZOE International.

Weekly Multi-Disciplinary Team (MDT) meetings are held to coordinate services for STAR Court participants and to negotiate dispositions for new referrals and probation violations. In preparation for the MDT meeting, each minor is contacted along with their parents or guardians, wrap-around teams, suitable placement counselors, DCFS social workers, and dependency attorneys. This preparation is conducted to ensure that the resource attorney possesses a good understanding of the minor's needs. This approach is what makes STAR Court successful.

STAR Court has received national attention and is viewed as a model program. Probation and advocacy groups from across the country have interviewed STAR Court professionals with the goal of starting a STAR Court in their respective jurisdictions.

#### JUVENILE DRUG TREATMENT COURT

Juvenile Drug Treatment Court attempts to resolve underlying problems of drug and alcohol abuse. Youth participate in the program voluntarily. The courtroom atmosphere is non-adversarial with a dedicated team of court officers and staff, including Deputy Public Defenders, who strive together to break the cycle of drug abuse.

Juvenile Drug Treatment Court directs participating youth through a 52-week curriculum which includes

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drug treatment, drug testing, frequent court appearances, and individual and group counseling. Upon a finding of eligibility and suitability, the Juvenile Drug Treatment Court Judge provisionally accepts the youth into the program. After the youth is accepted into the program, Deputy Public Defenders continue representation throughout the youth's participation in Drug Court. These defenders have received training regarding addiction, treatment, and related issues, and contribute to the therapeutic environment fostered in Juvenile Drug Treatment Court.

The programs are comprised of youth in both preadjudication and post-adjudication stages as well as high-risk probationers who are sometimes first placed in a 26-week residential facility before being transitioned into outpatient treatment. The youth's parents and family members are encouraged to participate in appropriate treatment sessions.

Most pre-adjudication participants are charged with non-violent offenses involving narcotics possession or being under the influence. Yet, youth are generally eligible to participate in the post-adjudication program regardless of the charges so long as they are not heavily gang-entrenched or do not have an extensive history with violence or firearms. Even those with WIC section 707(b) charges may be allowed to participate in Juvenile Drug Treatment Court when they are amendable to treatment and the interests of justice are served.

In the pre-adjudication program, successful completion and graduation will result in the dismissal of charges. In the post-adjudication program, successful completion and graduation will result not only in termination of probation but dismissal of the charges as well.

There are currently four Juvenile Drug Treatment Courts: Sylmar, Eastlake, Inglewood and Lancaster, although the Lancaster court has been on hiatus since early 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic. In 2020-21 FY, these courts combined to accept 15 new Public Defender clients and graduated 10 clients.

Success in the Juvenile Drug Treatment Court program is not measured solely by the number of graduates, but rather whether the curriculum favorably impacted the youth to the extent that they are now considered drug-free.



#### **JUVENILE JUSTICE JEOPARDY**

In collaboration with Los Angeles County's Chief Executive Office and the Department of Parks and Recreation, Public Defender staff assist local communities reclaim their parks at summer community resource fairs entitled Parks After Dark. Beginning in 2010 with three parks, our teams hosted Juvenile Justice Jeopardy, an innovative computer game developed by Strategies for Youth. Juvenile Justice Jeopardy aims to provide youth with scenario-based interactive lessons to assist in understanding realities of juvenile justice law and police-youth interactions. The popularity of the game has grown and during the summer of 2019, our staff participated in presentations at 33 different parks on 17 separate nights. Due to safety precautions taken to reduce the spread of the Coronavirus disease (COVID-19), Parks After Dark was not conducted during the summers of 2020 and 2021 and hopes to resume in 2022.









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# PROBATION DEPARTMENT

The Los Angeles County Probation Department (Probation) was established in 1903 with the enactment of California's first probation laws. As a criminal justice agency, Probation has expanded to become the largest Probation Department in the world.

The Chief Probation Officer has jurisdiction over the entire county, including all the cities within its borders. The legal provisions setting forth the Chief's office, duties, and responsibilities are found in the California Welfare and Institutions Code (WIC) and the California Penal Code (PC).

Currently funded by an appropriation of approximately \$1 billion, Probation provides an extensive range of services through the efforts of over 5,500 employees deployed in more than 50 locations throughout the County. Probation serves all superior courts in the County. Its services to the community include supervising adults and youth on probation, recommending sanctions to the court, enforcing court orders, operating juvenile detention facilities and probation camps, and assisting victims. Pursuant to Assembly Bill 109 (AB 109), Probation also provides supervision services to individuals released from California State prisons for non-violent, non-serious, and non-sex offenses

Probation's vision is to rebuild lives and provide for healthier and safer communities. Its mission is to enhance public safety, ensure victims' rights and affect positive probationer behavioral change.

#### **INVESTIGATION SERVICES**

Both adults (age 18 and older) and juveniles (under age 18 at the time of commission of a crime) may be referred to Probation for investigation. Adults are referred by the criminal courts while juveniles are referred by the Superior Court of California, County of Los Angeles, law enforcement agencies, schools, parents, or other interested community sources. The Deputy Probation Officer (DPO) provides a court report with a recommendation supported by factors that include but are not limited to the offender's social history, prior record, analysis of the current living arrangements, and statements from the victim and other interested parties. Recommendations support the needs of the individual while considering the safety of the community and ensuring victims' rights.

If the court grants probation, the DPO ensures compliance with the terms and conditions of probation ordered by the court, monitors the probationer's progress in treatment, and initiates appropriate corrective action if the conditions are violated. For Juveniles, the supervision model is grounded in the emerging scientific knowledge about adolescent development (Casual Model of Delinquency and the Healthy Youth Development research). These approaches emphasize the need for supporting and engaging the social, familial, and academic supports within the youth's natural ecology, utilizing promising practices to improve cognitive development and problem-solving skills. DPOs also work collaboratively with parents/caregivers and the youth to develop a case plan that will best meet the needs of the youth and their family.

If a child is under the jurisdiction of the Dependency Court, the DPO works cooperatively with the Children's Social Worker (CSW) from the Los Angeles County Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS)



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assigned to the case to ensure the child's safety and welfare. The DPO's assessment of the youth's response to court-ordered treatment may have a significant influence in determining the outcome of a child's placement.

#### **ADULT SERVICES**

Probation provides services to over 25,000 adults in Los Angeles County. The services consist of the following operations: Pretrial Services Division, Adult Investigations, Adult Supervision, Specialized Programs, and AB109.

Pretrial Services - Since 1963, Pretrial Services has been at the forefront in providing crucial information to public entities concerned with community safety (i.e., law enforcement, the courts, Probation) on matters of detention, incarceration, alternative sentencing. Pretrial Services has employees located in most courthouses throughout the county, and currently administers the following nine programs:

Bail Deviation Program: In accordance with PC 1269(c), the Bail Deviation Program is a free service that is available to any adult in jail (inmate) for an "open" (no criminal charges filed with the court) felony or misdemeanor charge in Los Angeles County. Pretrial Services employees gather information and conduct an assessment to determine the inmate's release suitability. The gathered information is gathered for the on-duty bail commissioner, helping him or her in making a decision regarding the inmate's custody status. In addition, the service is also available to any member of law enforcement or prosecuting agencies who are seeking a change in the bail amount on an inmate, if they feel the set bail amount is too low for community safety or if the inmate is a potential flight risk. The pretrial employee presents this information to the on-duty bail commissioner for a decision.

Drug Court Program: The Drug Court Program is available to non-violent defendants arrested for certain felony drug charges. Pretrial submits a report to the court. With the court's approval, qualified defendants are placed in court- supervised, comprehensive treatment and rehabilitation programs. Drug Court's judges monitor the participation of the defendants, and those who successfully complete the program have their drug case dismissed.

Early Disposition Program: The Early Disposition

Program allows defendants and the courts to reach a final decision sooner on the defendant's criminal case, reducing the time and number of court hearings and avoiding a jury trial. The Los Angeles County District Attorney and Public Defender Offices screen defendants for early disposition of criminal cases.

Recognizance Program: The Recognizance Program provides service to all Superior Courts in Los Angeles County handling felony criminal cases. Verified defendant information is provided to the courts, helping them in making decisions regarding a defendant's potential to be released from jail. Information is supplied to the court in a written report that includes an overall evaluation and recommendation regarding whether the defendant should be released from jail on his or her promise to appear for future court appearances.

Electronic Monitoring Program: The Electronic Monitoring Program is available to the Superior Court of Los Angeles County as an alternative to custody in accordance with PC 1203.016. Authorized by the Board of Supervisors, Probation contracts with a private company to provide electronic monitoring services, as part of Los Angeles County's Community Based Alternatives to Custody. Eligible, post-sentenced adults in custody are screened for possible participation, including court-ordered participation. Defendants can be referred to the program on misdemeanor or felony cases either prior to conviction as a pretrial release, or after conviction as a sentencing option. If electronic monitoring is ordered by the court, special conditions such as breath alcohol testing, drug testing, counseling, community service, and/or substance abuse treatment may also be issued by the court while the defendants are electronically monitored.

Civil Court Name Change Petitions Program: In January 1997, the California Code of Civil Procedure began requiring all persons seeking (petitioning) a civil name change (applicants) to be pre-screened. Applicants on active parole or who are sex offender registrants must be identified because the law excludes them from legally changing their names. The Superior Court of Los Angeles County has requested Probation's Pretrial Services Division conduct this screening process. Those applicants who fall into either of the above-mentioned exclusionary categories are identified.

Static 99 Program: Static 99 is a validated, sex offender specific risk assessment to determine the

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extent of supervision and the specific community services that will be utilized to assist the probationer from creating further victimization. The Static 99 Program is designed to measure the risk prediction of sexual and violent reconviction of adult males who have already been charged with or convicted of at least one sexual offense against a child or a non-consenting adult. Pretrial Services employees administer a Static 99 risk assessment and prepare a report for the court's consideration.

**DNA/Prop 69 Program**: Pursuant to California Proposition 69 (The DNA Fingerprint, Unsolved Crime, and Innocence Protection Act) and under the provisions of PC 296, Probation must collect DNA samples and palm print impressions on all adult probationers convicted of felonies, misdemeanors with a DNA collection court order, misdemeanors with a prior felony conviction, or misdemeanors that require collection pursuant to PC 290 and PC 457.

Probation must also collect DNA samples and palm print impressions on all juvenile probationers who have been adjudicated for a sustained petition of a felony or a qualifying misdemeanor. Live Scan machines are operated at the collection sites to ensure compliance with the palm print impression-capturing requirement of Proposition 69.

### **ADULT INVESTIGATIONS**

Deputy Probation Officer (DPO) investigators assigned to the Central Adult Investigations (CAI) and Adult Services Court Officer Team (ASCOT) offices are tasked with reviewing criminal caserelated documents and automated records, interviewing principals, and interested parties in the case, and evaluating the information so that they can formulate a recommendation and produce a report for the court's review and consideration. There are a variety of reports (i.e., Early Disposition, Pre-Plea, Probation and Sentence, Post Sentence, and Bench Warrant Pickup) that are produced by these same DPOs depending upon the nature/type of criminal proceedings. ASCOT's DPOs investigate complex criminal cases and are available to designated court locations for emergent on-site issues and/or questions, while CAI's DPOs handle the balance of incoming investigations, including those referred to and handled by the Early Disposition Program for expedited sentencing. The Custodian of Records, Supervision Intake and Drug Court DPOs are likewise attached to the ASCOT program and handle incoming requests for information from outside agencies and provide Supervision Intake and Drug Court supervision-related services, respectively.

The information and recommendations offered by the investigating DPOs are used to guide the court's sentencing decisions, including whether the named defendants are legally eligible and suitable for community-based supervision efforts by Probation.

#### **ADULT SUPERVISION**

Probation is responsible for the supervision of approximately 40,000 adults under Felony Probation supervision per year. Probation offers a wide variety of supervision programs designed to ensure public safety, address victim issues, and foster positive behavioral change. Probation continues to seek innovative ways to improve public safety, reduce the risk of recidivism, and reduce the number of state prison commitments.

Supervision Intake Team - All persons ordered to report to Probation for felony probation supervision will report to the area office ordered by the court for intake. These DPOs orient the probationer regarding the requirements of probation supervision, explain the court ordered conditions of supervision, and make referrals to the appropriate treatment provider if services are ordered by the court. They will also setup the financial account for the collection of victim restitution, court fines and fees, and payment for the cost of supervision. Once the orientation process is complete, the DPO refers the probationer to the appropriate area office for supervision.

Felony probationers are assigned to specific caseloads based on their score on a risk screening tool, criminal history, and/or the specific circumstances of the current offense. A probationer may be placed on any one of the following caseloads:

#### SPECIALIZED SUPERVISION

CORE – The Probation Department's vision is to implement and sustain an Evidence Based Practice approach. The Adult Coordinated Optimal Rehabilitation Efforts (CORE) Supervision Model was created to address specific criminogenic needs and reduce the potential for recidivation.

Automated Minimum Service Caseload - Probationers assigned to this caseload were assessed to have the lowest risk of continued criminal activity. They report monthly by kiosk which is in most area offices.







Core Emerging Adult - Research has demonstrated that the 18-25 years-old clients are still experiencing major changes in the brain that result in impulsive behavior, risk taking and poor decision-making. Clients supervised on this caseload have increased direct supervision with the Deputy Probation Officer applying Cognitive Behavioral Intervention techniques focusing on addressing skill deficits and behavior change.

**CORE Plus** – Comprised of Male probationers aged 26 and older and have been assessed to have a risk score from medium to moderate high of continued criminal activity. They are required to meet monthly with their probation officer face to face and receive Cognitive Behavior interventions through journaling and curriculum designed to address skill deficits and behavior change.

**CORE Gender Specific** - Gender Specific supervision is provided to Medium and High-Risk adult felony female clients with strategies to address specific gender needs while encompassing a gender sensitive approach. Clients supervised on this caseload have increased direct supervision with the Deputy Probation Officer applying Cognitive Behavioral Intervention techniques.

Intensive CORE Supervision – Deputy Probation officers provide intensive and targeted supervision approaches to Very High-Risk adult clients. Clients supervised under this model potentially pose the highest risk to recidivate, require extensive support and intervention to be amenable to treatment, services or rehabilitative efforts and are often repeat offenders. Individuals within this population will be subject to the following but not limited to increased reporting requirements, home visits, electronic monitoring, Global Position Satellite (GPS) monitoring, and other suppression strategies in partnership with intensive programming based on individualized needs.

Family Violence Caseloads - Probationers assigned to this caseload were convicted of specific crimes related to violence in a domestic setting, child abuse and endangerment, or elder abuse. Probationers are required to participate in an approved Batterers' Treatment Program and/or a state mandated program for child abuse. One of the critical parts of this caseload is to promote positive change intrinsically and extrinsically with regards to the client. Results from a validated risk and needs

assessment is utilized to create an individualized case plan that accounts for the criminogenic needs, with an emphasis on mitigating violent tendencies by using targeted interventions. The Deputy and client collaborate to recognize and strengthen protective factors, such as family bonds, connections to faith-based organizations, and employment situations.

**Sex Registrant** - Probationers assigned to this level of supervision are required to register with local law enforcement pursuant to PC 290, regardless of whether the current offense is a sex offense or not. The probationers report to the area office once a month for a face-to face meeting with their DPO. The DPO will also meet with the probationer once a month in the community. All eligible probationers assigned to the sex registrant caseload are required to be supervised in accordance with the Containment Model for Sex Offenders. This model requires eligible probationers to participate in State mandated sex offenders counseling while under supervision. In accordance with state law, all highrisk sex offenders are placed on Global Positioning Satellite monitoring system for the duration of their felony probation supervision.

INVEST- The Innovative Workforce Solutions (INVEST) Program is a collaboration between Los Angeles County Probation, Workforce Development, Aging and Community Services Department (WDACS), the County Office of Diversion and Re-Entry (ODR) and the California Employment Development Department (EDD), designed to help formerly incarcerated adults attain sustainable employment through occupational skills training and comprehensive employment assistance.

Los Angeles County Probation officers were trained by the National Institute of Corrections (NIC) to become Offender Workplace Development Specialists (OWDS) practitioners, completing 160 hours of workforce development curriculum. They then completed a study program to become OWDS Trainers and began facilitating these trainings throughout the county for shareholders. The INVEST Program collaborative efforts brought experts in reentry, business development, community-based organizations, and workforce development together to help justice involved Adults (age 18 and older) prepare for, gain, and sustain careers. A collaboration with INVEST achieves these outcomes by providing individualized career services, job search services, training services and supportive services. These services are comprehensive and are designed to



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help reduce specific barriers in each field.

Mental Health Housing – Clients assigned to these caseloads are placed on probation by a collaborative court into a Housing Program with community-based treatment and housing providers; Probation Officers use their time in the field addressing issues involving these high- need clients. As part of the Office of Diversion and reentry's Diversion program for the Mental Health population, our Deputy Probation officers currently monitor clients at 96 housing and treatment sites throughout Los Angeles County.

#### FINANCIAL EVALUATION TEAM

In addition to the supervision services, Probation provides a Financial Evaluation Team to assist probationers in paying their court ordered victim restitution, fines, fees, and cost of supervision. Located in all Probation area offices, the Financial Evaluators will use information provided by the probationer to determine how much they can afford to pay toward these court ordered charges.

#### SENATE BILL (SB) 1950

In accordance with State Senate Bill 1950, the Department worked collaboratively with the Office of the Public Defender, the District Attorney, and the Supervising Judge of the Superior Court of California, Los Angeles County, in developing the process for implementing the new statute. This bill, which limits certain misdemeanors to one year of probation, and certain felonies to two years of probation required not just a process of review for new cases, but a mean of identifying and clearing existing cases which were subject to the statute retroactively. The Department, working with its partner agencies released over 5,000 probationers from supervision at or near the two-year mark, in accordance with the new law.

#### **AB 109**

In April 2011, the California Legislature and Governor Brown passed sweeping public safety legislation that effectively shifted responsibility for certain populations of offenders from the state to the counties effective October 1, 2011. Assembly Bill 109 (AB 109) established the California Public Safety Realignment Act of 2011 which allowed for non-violent, non-serious, and non-sex offenders, who after they are released from California State Prison, to be supervised at the local county level on Post-Release Community Supervision (PRCS). Instead

of reporting to state parole officers, these offenders report to local county deputy probation officers and are referred to as Post-Release Supervised Persons (PSPs).

The law also mandated that individuals sentenced to non-serious, non-violent, or non-sex offenses will serve all or part their sentences in county jails instead of state prison. Individuals ordered to serve a portion of their county jail sentence under community supervision is referred to as a split-sentence supervised person. The Probation Department is the lead agency for Post-Release Community Supervision (PRCS) and currently supervises on average 6,061 adults on PRCS and 810 on split-sentence supervision.

The Public Safety Realignment Act requires that the County's Post-Release supervision strategy is consistent with evidence-based practices to reduce recidivism. As a result, Los Angeles County's AB 109 supervision model has the following features:

- Uses a validated risk assessment to identify and measure client's criminogenic needs, the needs or risk factors that lead to criminal behavior.
- Uses motivational interviewing techniques, rather than persuasion techniques, to enhance motivation for initiation and maintaining behavior changes.
- Targets interventions based on the client's risk to reoffend, identified criminogenic needs, and personal characteristics (responsivity factors).
- Facilitates client's learning and practicing of pro-social skills and behavior using a cognitive behavioral intervention
- Uses positive reinforcement and incentives to motivate clients to work toward long term behavior change.

The below information provides noteworthy highlights of the County's AB 109 program:

- The pilot Auxiliary Fund program allows Probation to assist clients overcome barriers (responsivity factors) to successfully transitioning to the community. For example, auxiliary funds can be used to provide work clothing for clients that found a job but need assistance is purchasing clothing.
- The pilot Incentive program allows Probation to provide tangible rewards to clients that successfully achieve a case plan goal such as the completing of an inpatient treatment program



#### **Probation Department**

- We work collaboratively with Mental Health (MH) and Department of Health Services (DHS), who are co-located at our AB 109 office operations to assist our clients with mental health and/or substance use disorder issues.
- Probation oversees a \$13 million housing contract that provides over 400 supervised persons each month transitional housing, clothing and food, and navigational services that helps them obtain government identification, welfare, and medical benefits.
- The Pre-Release Center (PRC) is a 24/7, 365 day a year operation that performs numerous operations including but not limited to the following tasks: intake processing, upfront screening for eligibility, and establishment of special conditions under Post-Release Community Supervision (PRCS); receives and distributes inmate "gate funds" and California DMV issued Identification cards; operates a 24-hour law enforcement call-line; and processes Inter- County Transfer requests for PSPs. Additionally, co-located at the Alhambra office is the AB 109 Communications Center (Comm Center). This operation conducts two-way radio communications with AB 109 staff conducting field operations such as PSP field contact visits and Mobile Assistance Team (MAT) transportation duties. Additionally, as of May 28, 2019 the PRC has taken on the added responsibility for processing warrant hit confirmations and related extradition work previously handled by the LASD.
- The Mobile Assistance Team (MAT) provides transportation for those being released from the various state prisons in Californian who cannot navigate transportation to Los Angeles County. They also provide transportation from county jails to residences, hospitals, mental health, and substance abuse programs.
- The AB 109 program is implementing Prerelease Video Conferencing program, which allows the Deputy Probation Officer to connect and establish rapport with the probationer in prison via a video conference, approximately 30 days prior to their prison release
- The AB 109 program includes a GPS unit that supervises over 200 high risk sex offenders following the Containment Model Approach as required by law.
- The AB 109 program includes several "Colocated teams" that are embedded with the Los Angeles County Sheriff Department (LASD), the District Attorney's Office, State Parole, the United States Marshall, and other local law enforcement

agencies, that conduct warrant searches and compliance checks.

#### **JUVENILE SERVICES**

Probation provides investigation, supervision, and placement services to justice involved youth. These identified services/programs support Probation's mission and serve as an arm of the Delinquency Court. DPOs recommend appropriate dispositions while preserving and enhancing the family unit, whenever possible.

**Detention Services** - Intake and Detention Control (IDC) - IDC is responsible for screening youth for admittance into Juvenile Hall in accordance with established procedures and legal requirements for detention.

Juvenile Hall serves as an institutional setting that temporarily houses youth for primarily two reasons:

1) prior to their court dates and/or after their court disposition, and 2) pending transition to out of home care. The two (2) Juvenile Halls in Los Angeles County are: Central Juvenile Hall in the City of Los Angeles, and Barry J. Nidorf Juvenile Hall in the city of Sylmar. In 2020, the combined total population for the two (2) juvenile halls was approximately 300 youth. Detention services is a mandated program pursuant to WIC 850.

Juvenile Hall Programs: Probation developed programs to address specific needs of youth in its care and custody. These programs include the following: Commercially Sexually Exploited Children (CSEC) at Central Juvenile Hall is a comprehensive program that assesses and addresses the needs of commercially, sexually exploited children through education, workshops, empowerment, stakeholder collaboration; Services Developmentally Disabled Youth is a program that focuses on identification, programmatic participation to assist with rehabilitation while in detention and referrals to the local Regional Centers; and the Elite Family Unit at Central Juvenile Hall is guided by a multi-agency steering committee to provide programming specifically designed to address the needs of detained youth under the jurisdiction of DCFS and Probation supervision.

Community Detention Program – The Community Detention Program (CDP) provides electronically supported supervision for adjudicated and pre-



adjudicated youths as a viable alternative to detention in a juvenile hall setting or from being removed from the community. DPOs hold participants accountable to pre-approved schedules of sanctioned activities, with their mobility confined to specific approved locations. Non-compliance with the stated provisions of CDP may result in the youth's return to secure detention, pending an appearance in court.

Community-Based Supervision - DPOs are assigned to designated communities and provide case management and supervision for youth placed on informal/formal probation. The supervision model is grounded in the emerging scientific knowledge about adolescent development (Casual Model of Delinquency and the Healthy Youth Development research). These approaches emphasize the need for sustaining and engaging the social, familial, and academic supports within the youth's natural ecology, utilizing promising practices to improve cognitive development and problem-solving skills.

DPOs are informed by individualized assessment data and case planning efforts are driven through the voice and choice of the youth and their families/ caregivers. The Supervision model promotes a multi-disciplinary approach designed to target multiple settings and systems which youth are embedded to increase family strengths, to promote academic success, while enhancing community protective factors.

**Dual Supervision** – WIC 241.1 (a) provides that whenever a youth appears to come within the description of both WIC Section 300 and Section 601 or 602, the child protective services department and the probation department shall determine which status will best serve the interests of the youth and the protection of society pursuant to a jointly developed written protocol.

For youth who are placed under the Dual Jurisdiction of Delinquency and Dependency Courts, the Dual Supervision Unit provides targeted supervision in coordination with the Department of Children and Family Services to ensure coordination across systems for case planning, treatment services planning/delivery and case management. These efforts support enhanced access to appropriate services and placements with an emphasis on increasing access to lower levels of care and decreasing crossover to sole delinquency wardship.

Juvenile Mental Health Court - Special Needs

Court - Juvenile Mental Health Court - Special Needs Court is designated to initiate a comprehensive, judicially monitored program of individualized mental health treatment and rehabilitation services for youths who suffer from diagnosed mental disorders and/or developmental disabilities. The focus is on the assessment and facilitation of treatment for youth through a Multi-Disciplinary Team (MDT) approach (Juvenile Court, Probation, Mental Health, Regional Center, School Liaison, and youth's counsel).

**Teen Court** - Teen Court offers an alternative sanction in the form of a diversion program for first time juvenile offenders in lieu of delinquency court proceedings. Teen court, overseen by Superior Court, consists of a volunteer judicial officer, a court coordinator (either a DPO or a Reserve DPO), and a jury composed of at least six peers. Probation collaborates with the court, other law enforcement agencies, schools, attorneys, and community-based organizations in this program.

**Drug Court** - Juvenile Drug Court is designed to provide an alternative to current juvenile justice proceedings. This program provides an integrated system of treatment for youth and parents through a Team approach (Juvenile Court, District Attorney, youth's counsel, School Liaison, and Treatment provider) aimed at reducing the youth's substance abuse and delinquent behavior. It includes regular court appearances before a designated Drug Court Judge and intensive supervision by Probation and the Treatment Provider.

Intensive Gang Supervision Program - This program provides intensive supervision of identified, high-risk gang affiliated probation youth, who actively participate in gang conflict, violence, and crime. The program supervises youth in order to develop/implement case planning and the delivery of treatment services, enforce accountability to court orders and collaborate with law enforcement, schools, and community-based agencies to reduce recidivism and protect the community.

School-Based Supervision - School-Based Supervision consists of programs at identified High School sites across the County of Los Angeles, within the five Supervisorial Districts. The programs and services are funded through the Juvenile Justice Crime Prevention Act (JJCPA) and are designed to provide a full spectrum of community-based services to probation youth and their families. The school-based program consists of DPOs who provide

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supervision and services that include individualized assessment, Strength-Based/Family-Centered case planning and management, educational advocacy, mediation (youth, family, and school), mentoring, attendance (daily and academic monitoring, family support and engagement. They work closely with parents/guardians and school officials in monitoring regular school attendance, behavior, and school performance as well as with all other terms of probation. The primary objective of these services is to increase the opportunity for probationers to achieve academic success, and to empower and support parents to become the primary change agent for their children.

# Early Intervention and Diversion Program - (EIDP)

DPOs provides services through a collaborative partnership with the Department of Mental Health's contracted Community-Based (CBO) to first time offenders and their families countywide.

Juvenile Day Reporting Centers (JDRC) – The Program provides educational and supportive services to Probation youth at higher risk of out of home placement and/or probation violations, who could benefit from structured intervention and enrichment programs.

Developmentally Delayed/Competency Unit: DPOs provide administrative support for the Juvenile Field Developmental Disabilities protocols, designed to support service delivery to youth identified or suspected of having a developmental disability, detained in Juvenile Hall and/or residing in the community. DPOs also provide remediation services a n d supplemental report to court for youth involved in the Incompetent to Stand Trial process.

Division of Juvenile Justice (DJJ) Supervision Program - This Programs serves high-risk probationers transitioning from DJJ to County Probation supervision, under Delinquency Court jurisdiction. The Program focuses on transition services designed to support stabilization (includes possible housing, mental health and substance abuse treatment, job search/ placement, continued education/vocational training, etc.) and self-sufficiency in the community.

**Juvenile Record Sealing Program**: The program is designed to provide assistance to former probationers who desire to seal their juvenile

records and provides administrative support to the Delinquency record sealing process. (amended in 2018 by AB 529) under Welfare and Institutions (WIC) Sections 781, 786, 786.5, and 793(c).

#### RESIDENTIAL TREATMENT SERVICES

Camp Community Placement (CCP) provides intensive intervention in a residential treatment setting. The goal of the program is to reunify the youth with their family, to reintegrate the youth into the community, and to assist the youth in achieving a productive crime free life. Probation camps provide structured work experience, vocational training, education, specialized tutoring, athletic activities, and various types of social enrichment. Additional programming is provided by CBOs and varies by camp as each camp is tailored to its population and purpose.

There are four (4) male camps, one (1) female camp, and one (1) co-ed camp that houses approximately 200 youth. Camp youth range in age between 13-18 years, with an average stay of approximately six months and the average age of 16 years. Juvenile camps are a non-mandated, discretionary program pursuant to WIC 881.

Camp Community Transition Program (CCTP) – CCTP provides after-care services for youth transitioning from camp back into their own communities. The services begin prior to their release, followed by a 30 to 60-day intensively supervised transition period to ensure prompt school enrollment, community service and participation in selected programs provided by CBOs. Transitional

plans include an emphasis on family participation.

## PLACEMENT SERVICES

Probation's Placement Services Bureau (PSB) serves juvenile probationers whom the courts have ordered to be removed from home and suitably placed in either group homes, or in relative or non-relative care. Generally, youth receive this type of dispositional order after less restrictive court sanctions have not resolved the identified issues. Youth are placed in environments best suited to meet their needs, which may include a smaller group home environment, a larger foster home facility, or a small family home. In 2020, there were approximately 300 Probation youth in placement. PSB is comprised of the following units:



Placement Administrative Services (PAS) – Placement Administrative Services provides administrative support services. PAS is critical in the initial placement of youth in foster care. PAS ensures appropriate processing of all necessary documentation to provide funding and services to youth from the time they are ordered to placement until the time the order is terminated, or the youth completes the placement program, or the youth is reunited with their family.

Residential-Based Services (RBS) – Placement DPOs are responsible for case management and monitoring the youth while in placement. They work with the youth and their families to identify areas of strength and risk to develop appropriate case plans to ensure prompt reunification and/or permanency. The work performed by RBS is mandated in large part through state and federal regulations, such as Division 31 of California Department of Social Services (CDSS).

Prospective Authorization Utilization Review Unit (PAUR) and Out-Of-Home Screening Unit (OHS) - This unit serves as the single point of contact for DPOs to clear all out-of-home placement recommendations prior to the submission of the report to the court. This unit also assists DPOs with receipt and processing of referrals for community-based services (in lieu of out-of-home placement) such as Functional Family Therapy, Multi-Systemic Therapy, Family Preservation and Functional Family Probation.

Placement to Community Transition Services (PCTS) – PCTS supports families as youth transition from out-of-home care settings and provides intensive in-home supervision and treatment services. PCTS also provides these services to youth ordered "Home on Probation" to prevent eventual out of home placement.

Youth Development Services (YDS) - DPOs coordinate Independent Living Plans (ILP) Services for eligible youth and assist with connecting ILP-eligible youth with services, resources and support systems that emphasize independence and self-sufficiency through education and experiential learning.

**Transitional Jurisdiction/ Extended Foster Care** (AB12) - DPOs provide support to post- probation non-minor dependents by providing access to housing and resources. The DPOs coordinate

employment and educational assistance, pro-social and life skill classes. Youth who are on a suitable placement order at the time they turn 18 years old and who complete their probation may remain in foster care until the age of 21 under a new jurisdiction known as Transition Jurisdiction pursuant to WIC 450.

Placement Permanency and Quality Assurance (PPQA) - This unit monitors PSB systems, including group homes to ensure the safety and stability of the youth while in an out-of-home care setting. PPQA is also responsible for permanency planning through Family Finding, Adoptions, and the Legal Guardianship processes.

# DOMESTIC MINOR SEX TRAFFICKING (DMST) PROGRAM

Probation is at the forefront of addressing a population not previously viewed as victims. The development of the Domestic Minor Sex Trafficking (DMST) program demonstrates Probation's understanding and commitment to girls and boys who have been sexually exploited. In the past, law enforcement and other government agencies have viewed most of this population of domestically trafficked youth as teens who have independently made the choice to engage in the criminal act of prostitution.

Probation has been working collaboratively with various committees, the courts, law enforcement, social service agencies, etc. to develop an effective prevention/intervention strategy for rehabilitative services for DCFS and Probation youth who are at risk or have been victims of sexual exploitation. Probation has had a paradigm shift in practice and mindset to view these children, not as criminals, but rather as victims.

Probation and the Los Angeles Superior Court partnered to provide referrals to specialized services for underage victims of sex trafficking. In 2011 Probation and the courts successfully applied for a Title II grant to fund the DMST program and a specialized court program - Succeeding Through Achievement and Resilience (STAR) Court. STAR Court is aimed at providing intervention and assistance to youth involved in human sex trafficking and to implement rehabilitation services for the victims.

In 2015, the Los Angeles County Law Enforcement First Responder Protocol for Commercially Sexually



Exploited Children (CSEC) was developed by the Sheriff's Department, DCFS, Probation, DMH, DHS, and advocacy agencies. The protocol creates a system in which law enforcement officers can identify victims of sexual exploitation and work collaboratively with County agencies and communitybased organizations to avoid arrest, keep the youths safe and provide them with the services they need to escape exploitation. The protocol was implemented in mid-August 2015 in Long Beach and Compton in South Los Angeles. Throughout 2020, Probation and its partners continued to implement the protocol countywide, collect aggregate data, revise the Protocol as needed, assess the sufficiency of resources and report to the Board of Supervisors on the Protocol.

**SELECTED FINDINGS** 

The data presented for adults were collected from Probation's Adult Probation System (APS). The data presented for juveniles were collected from the Juvenile Automated Index (JAI) system.

Overall, the number of adult referrals decreased from 2019 to 2020 by 2.4%, 409 to 399 (Figure 1). The most significant changes were increases from 2019 to 2020 with adult referrals for general neglect by 260%; 5 to 18 and severe neglect by 54.5%.; 11 to 17 (Figure 1). Whereas exploitation referrals from 2019 to 2020, had decreased by 10%; 20 to 22. The adult referrals for physical abuse from 2019 to 2020 remains unchanged. Most noteworthy is the total number of adult referrals in 2020 remains on the decline from 2013 to 2020 from 497 to 399 (Figure 2). Nonetheless, sexual abuse continues to be the number one offense for adult referrals: 341 of the 399, or 85.4% of total cases referred to Probation were for sexual abuse. (Figure 7). The number of adult referrals by gender increase for females from 2019 to 2020 from 15 to 25 (Figure 6).

The Adult Child Threat workload by Area Office reflected a decrease in cases from 2019 to 2020 resulting from 1,206 cases to 948 cases. (Figure 10)

The number of juvenile child abuse referrals decreased from 2016 to 2020 by 12.138, 202 to 177; increased from 2017 to 2018 by 7.9%, 188 to 203; increased from 2018 to 2020 by 26.6% (Figure 12). The increases were reflected in the referrals for general neglect, physical abuse, and sexual abuse. Referrals for sexual abuse decreased significantly by 78.6%, from 201 to 43 referrals. (Figure 12). There

was also a decrease in referrals for exploitation by 44%, and severe neglect by 75%. However, there was increase in referrals for general neglect by 50%. Juvenile referrals for child abuse offenses in 2020 decreased from the previous year of 2019 by 31.1% from 257 to 177 (Figure 13). Furthermore, like the adult population, sexual abuse continues to be the number one child abuse offense for juvenile referrals: 43 of 177, or 24.2% of total cases referred to Probation were for sexual abuse. (Figure 13).





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#### **GLOSSARY OF TERMS**

**AB 109 -** California legislation that shifted responsibility for certain populations of offenders from the state to the counties; It allows for current non-violent, non-serious, and non-sex offenders, who after they are released from California State Prison be supervised at the local County level.

**Adjudication -** A judicial decision or sentence; to settle by judicial procedure; for juveniles – a juvenile court process focused on whether the allegations or charges facing a juvenile are true.

**Adult –** A person 18 years of age or older.

**Bail Commissioner -** A person appointed by the state who may set the amount of bond for persons detained at a police station prior to arraignment in court; s/he recommends to the court the amount of bond that should be set for the defendant on each criminal case.

**Bench Officer** - A judicial hearing officer (appointed or elected) such as a judge, commissioner, referee, arbitrator, or umpire, presiding in a court of law and authorized by law to hear and decide on the disposition of cases.

Camp Community Placement - Available to the juvenile court at a disposition hearing; a minor is placed in a secure or non-secure structured residential camp setting run by the Probation Department throughout the County (see Residential Treatment Program).

**Caseload** - The total number of adult/juvenile clients or cases on probation, assigned to an adult or juvenile Deputy Probation Officer; caseload size and level of service is determined by Probation Department policy.

**Child Abuse (or Neglect) -** Physical injury inflicted by other than accidental means upon a child by another person; includes sexual abuse, willful cruelty or unjustifiable punishment or injury or severe neglect.

Child Threat (CTH) Caseload - A specialized caseload supervised by a CTH Deputy Probation Officer consisting of adults on formal probation for child abuse offenses or where there is reason to believe that defendant's (violent, drug abusing or child molesting) behavior may pose a threat to a child; Probation Department service standards require close monitoring of a defendant's compliance with

court orders to ensure both the child's and parents' safety.

**Compliance** - Refers to the offender following, abiding by, and acting in accordance with the orders and instructions of the court as part of his/her effort to cooperate in his/her own rehabilitation while on probation (qualified liberty) given as a statutory act of clemency.

**Conditions of Probation -** The portion of the court ordered sentencing option, which imposes obligations on the offender; may include restitution, fines, community service, restrictions on association, etc.

**Controlled Substance** – A drug, substance, or immediate precursor, which is listed in any schedule in Health and Safety Code Sections 11054, 11055, 11057, or 11058.

**Court Orders -** List of terms and conditions to be followed by the probationer, or any instructions given by the court.

**Crime -** An act or omission in violation of local, state or federal law forbidding or commanding it, and made punishable in a legal proceeding brought by a state or the US government.

**DA Case Reject** - A District Attorney dispositional decision to reject the juvenile/adult petition request (to file a formal complaint for court intervention) from the referral source (usually an arresting agency) by way of Probation due to lack of legal sufficiency (i.e., insufficient evidence).

Department of Juvenile Justice or DJJ (formerly the California Youth Authority) — The most severe sanction available to the juvenile court among a range of dispositional outcomes; it is a state run confinement facility for juveniles who have committed extremely serious or repeat offenses and/or have failed county-level programs, and require settings at the state level; DJJ facilities are maintained as correctional schools which are scattered throughout the state; a minor can remain in the DJJ until age 25.

**Defendant -** An adult subject of a case, accused/ convicted of a crime, before a criminal court of law.

**Disposition -** The resolution of a case by the court, including the dismissal of a case, the acquittal of a defendant, the granting of probation or deferred entry of judgment, or overturning of a convicted defendant.



**Diversion -** The suspension of prosecution of "eligible" youthful, first-time offenders in which a criminal court determines the offender suitable for diverting out of further criminal proceedings and directs the defendant to seek and participate in community-based education, treatment or rehabilitation programs prior to and without being convicted, while under the supervision of the Probation Department; program success dismisses the complaint, while failure causes resumption of criminal proceedings.

**DPO -** Deputy Probation Officer - a peace officer who performs full case investigation functions and monitors probationer's compliance with court orders, keeping the courts informed of probationer's progress by providing reports as mandated

**Drug Abuse -** The excessive use of substances (pharmaceutical drugs, alcohol, narcotics, cocaine, generally opiates, stimulants, depressants, hallucinogens) having an addictive-sustaining liability, without medical justification.

**Formal Probation -** The suspension of the imposition of a sentence by the court and the conditional and revocable release of an offender into the community, in lieu of incarceration, under the formal supervision of a DPO to ensure compliance with conditions and instructions of the court; non-compliance may result in formal probation being revoked.

**High Risk** - A classification referring to potentially dangerous, recidivist probationers who are very likely to violate conditions of probation and pose a potentially high level of peril to victims, witnesses and their families or close relatives; usually require in-person contacts and monitoring participation in treatment programs.

#### **Informal Probation -**

- Juvenile A six-month probation supervision program for minors opted by the DPO following case intake investigation of a referral, or ordered by the juvenile court without adjudication or declaration of wardship; it is a lesser sanction and avoids formal hearings, conserving the time of the DPO, court staff and parents and is seen as less damaging to a minor's record.
- Adult Aperiod of probation wherein an individual is under the supervision of the Court as opposed to the Probation Officer. The period of probation may vary dependant on the circumstances of the case. (Summary Probation)

**Investigation -** The process of investigating the factors of the offense(s) committed by a minor/adult, his/her social and criminal history, gathering offender, victim and other interested party input, and analyzing the relevant circumstances, culminating in the submission of recommendations to the court regarding sanctions and rehabilitative treatment options.

**Judgment** – Law given by court or other competent tribunal and entered in its dockets, minutes of record.

**Juvenile -** A person who has not attained his/her 18th birthday.

**Juvenile Court -** Superior Court which has jurisdiction over delinquent and dependent children.

**Kiosk** – A small stand-alone structure that provides information and services on a computer screen.

**Minor** – A person under the age of 18.

**Narcotic Testing -** The process whereby a probationer must submit, by court order, to a drug test as directed, to detect and deter controlled substance abuse.

**Pre-Sentence Report** - A written report made to the adult court by the DPO and used as a vehicle to communicate a defendant's situation and the DPO's recommendations regarding sentencing and treatment options to the judge prior to sentencing; becomes the official position of the court.

**Probation -** The suspension of a jail sentence that allows a person convicted of a crime a chance to remain in the community, instead of going to jail; the offenders (adults convicted of a crime and juveniles with allegations sustained at adjudication) must follow certain court-ordered rules and conditions under the supervision of a deputy probation officer; typical conditions may include performing community service, meeting with your deputy probation officer, refraining from using illegal drugs or excessive alcohol, avoiding certain people and places, completing rehabilitative programs, and appearing in court during requested times; also known as a grant of probation.

**Probation Violation –** When the orders of the court are not followed or the probationer is re-arrested and charged with a new offense; the matter is returned to court for a violation of probation.

**Probationer -** Minor or adult who is on probation.



**Referral** – For adults: a criminal court order directing Probation to perform a thorough investigation of a defendant's case following conviction, and present findings and recommendations in the form of a presentence report; for juveniles: the complaint against the juvenile from law enforcement, parents or school requesting Probation intervention into the case.

Residential Treatment Program – This program is also referred to as the Camp Community Placement program (CCP). It provides intensive intervention in a residential setting over an average stay of 20 weeks. The Camp Community Placement program is an intermediate sanction alternative to probation in the community and incarceration in the Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ).

Sanction - A penalty for violation of law.

#### Sentence -

- Juvenile The penalty imposed by the court upon a juvenile with allegations found true in juvenile court; penalties imposed may include fines, community service, restitution or other punishment, terms of probation, residential camp placement or a commitment with the Department of Juvenile Justice (formerly CYA).
- Adult The penalty imposed by the court upon a convicted defendant in a criminal judicial proceeding; penalties imposed may include fines, community service, restitution or other punishment, terms of probation, county jail or prison for the defendant.

**Substance Abuse -** See Drug Abuse - the non-medical use of a substance for any of the following reasons: psychic effect, dependence, or suicide attempt/gesture. For purposes of this glossary, non-medical use means:

- Use of prescription drugs in a manner inconsistent with accepted medical practice;
- Use of over-the-counter drugs contrary to approved labeling; or
- Use of any substance (heroin/morphine, marijuana/hashish, peyote, glue, aerosols, etc.) for psychic effect, dependence, or suicide

**Trace -** An amount of substance found in a newborn or parent that is insufficient to cause a parent to return to court on a probation violation, but is enough to authorize removal of a child from parental control

**Victim -** An entity or person injured or threatened with physical injury, or that directly suffers a measurable loss as a consequence of the criminal activities of an offender, or a "derivative" victim, such as the parent/guardian, who suffers some loss as a consequence of injury to the closely related primary victim, by reason of a crime committed by an offender

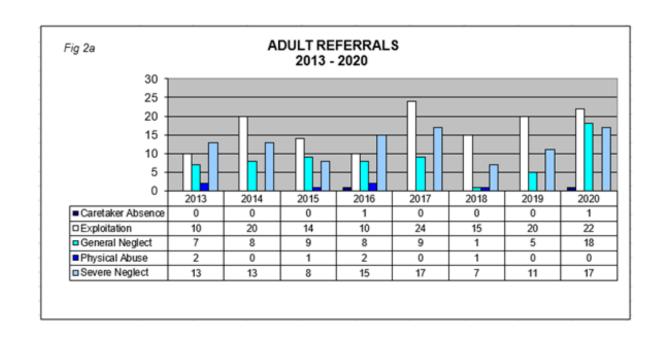




Figure 1  ADULT REFERRALS 2016 - 2020  BY TYPE											
PERCENTAGE	OF CHANGE	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	ТҮРЕ				
INCREASE	100%	1	0	0	0	1	CARETAKER ABSENCE				
INCREASE	10.0%	10	24	15	20	22	EXPLOITATION				
INCREASE	260%	8	9	1	5	18	GENERAL NEGLECT				
UNCHANGED	-	2	0	1	0	0	PHYSICAL ABUSE				
INCREASE	54.5%	15	17	7	11	17	SEVERE NEGLECT				
DECREASE	8.5%	423	405	357	373	341	SEXUAL ABUSE				
DECREASE	2.4%	459	455	381	409	399	OVERALL FROM 2016 TO 2020				

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Figure 2  ADULT REFERRALS 2013 - 2020  BY TYPE												
OFFENSE TYPE	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020				
CARETAKER ABSENCE	-	-	-	1	0	0	0	1				
EXPLOITATION	10	20	14	10	24	15	20	22				
GENERAL NEGLECT	7	8	9	8	9	1	5	18				
PHYSICAL ABUSE	2	-	1	2	0	1	0	0				
SEVERE NEGLECT	13	13	8	15	17	7	11	17				
SEXUAL ABUSE	465	489	507	423	405	357	373	341				
OVERALL TOTALS	497	530	539	459	455	381	409	399				

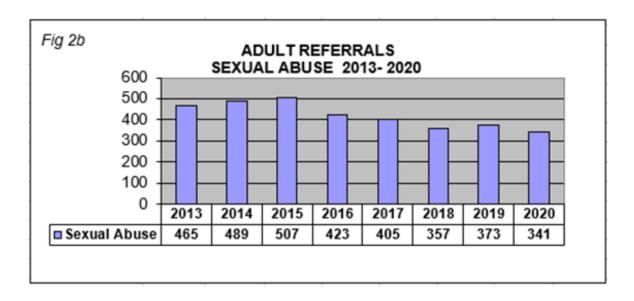




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Figure 3  ADULT REFERRALS 2016 - 2020  BY AGE												
PERCENTAGE OF CHANGE 2016 2017 2018 2019 2020 AGE OF ADULT OFFENDE												
INCREASE	33.3%	11	10	10	3	4	UNDER AGE 20					
DECREASE	3.1%	59	47	42	32	31	20-24					
UNCHANGED	0.0%	51	59	31	44	44	25-29					
DECREASE	14.5%	51	59	49	62	53	30-34					
INCREASE	14.0%	73	78	47	50	57	35-39					
DECREASE	14.2%	56	49	40	49	42	40-44					
DECREASE	15.3%	48	38	46	39	33	45-49					
INCREASE	3.8%	110	115	116	130	135	50 AND OVER					

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Figure 4  ADULT REFERRALS 2016 - 2020  BY ETHNICITY											
PERCENTAGE	OF CHANGE	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	ETHNICITY				
DECREASE	2.4%	48	55	30	41	40	AFRICAN AMERICAN				
DECREASE	33.3%	12	7	4	6	4	ASIAN/PACIFIC ISLANDER				
DECREASE	5.2%	281	247	278	303	287	HISPANIC				
INCREASE	6.6%	38	76	43	45	48	WHITE				
INCREASE	112.1%	5	15	14	8	17	OTHER				
DECREASE	78.1%	75	55	12			UNKNOWN				
DECREASE	8.5%	82	75				UNKNOWN				

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#### Figure 5 **ADULT REFERRALS 2016-2020 BY AGE & ETHNICITY** UNDER 20-24 25-29 30-34 35-39 40-44 45-49 50-50+ **TOTAL ETHNICITY AFRICAN AMER** ASIAN/PAC ISL HISPANIC WHITE **OTHER** UNKNOWN TOTAL 1.0% 7.77% 11.0% 13.2% 14.2% 10.5% 8.2% 33.0% 100% **PERCENT**

Figure 6  ADULT REFERRALS 2016 - 2020 BY AREA OFFICE AND GENDER												
	20	2016 2017 2018 2019 2020										
AREA OFFICE	MALE	FEMALE	MALE	FEMALE	MALE	FEMALE	MALE	FEMALE	MALE	FEMALE		
ANTELOPE VALLEY	14	1	38	5	26	2	16	2	28	1		
CENTRAL ADULT INVESTIGATIONS (CAI) EAST SAN	120	8	103	8	85	1	107	7	106	11		
FERNANDO VALLEY	65	3	62	2	57	2	89	0	62	3		
FOOTHILL	8	1	8	0	6	0	4	0	10	0		
HARBOR	30	1	34	1	22	1	23	0	21	0		
LONG BEACH	22	0	17	1	12	0	15	0	12	1		
POMONA VALLEY	76	1	72	2	71	2	65	3	61	2		
PRETRIAL	5	0	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	0		
RIO HONDO	29	0	26	2	46	4	44	1	37	3		
SAN GABRIEL VALLEY	26	0	12	2	5	0	8	0	6	0		
SANTA MONICA	18	1	12	6	4	0	5	1	13	0		
SOUTH CENTRAL	27	2	40	2	34	1	18	1	17	4		
TOTAL	441	18	424	31	368	13	394	15	374	25		

Figure 7 ADULT AND JUVENILE REFERRALS 2020 BY TYPE												
OFFENSE TYPE	ADULT	PERCENT	JUVENILE	PERCENT	TOTAL							
EXPLOITATION	22	5.5%	14	7.9%	45							
GENERAL NEGLECT	18	4.5%	3	1.6%	7							
PHYSICAL ABUSE	0	0%	25	14.1%	21							
SEVERE NEGLECT	17	4.2%	2	1.1%	9							
SEXUAL ABUSE	341	85.4%	133	75.1%	574							
TOTAL	399		177		576							
PERCENT		69.3%		30.7%	100%							



Figure 8	Figure 8  ACTIVE ADULT SUPERVISION 2020  BY AGE AND ETHNICITY												
ETHNICITY	UNDER 20	20-24	25-29	30-34	35-39	40-44	45-49	50-50+	TOTAL				
AFRICAN AMER	1	10	25	29	26	28	24	70	213				
AMER INDIAN	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0				
ASIAN/PAC ISL	0	0	7	1	8	3	4	3	26				
LATINO	2	60	88	76	60	39	40	100	465				
WHITE	0	8	18	21	29	20	17	83	196				
OTHER	0	2	0	6	2	4	4	11	29				
UNKNOWN	0	2	2	2	4	5	1	3	19				
TOTAL	3	82	140	135	129	99	90	270	948				
PERCENT	0.3%	8.6%	13.6%	14.7%	13.6%	10.4%	9.4%	28.4%	100%				

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Figure 9 ACTIVE ADULT SUPERVISION 2020 BY ETHNICITY											
ETHNICITY	TOTAL	PERCENT									
AFRICAN AMERICAN	213	22.4%									
AMERICAN INDIAN	AMERICAN INDIAN 0 0.0%										
ASIAN/PACIFIC ISLANDER	26	2.7%									
HISPANIC	465	49.0%									
WHITE	196	20.6%									
OTHER	29	3.0%									
UNKNOWN	19	2.0%									
TOTAL	948	100%									

Figure 10  ADULT CHILD THREAT WORKLOAD  2013 - 2020  BY AREA OFFICE											
AREA OFFICE	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020			
ANTELOPE VALLEY	84	91	94	101	98	96	99	67			
CENTINELA	123	124	108	95	106	107	100	78			
CRENSHAW	170	186	159	179	164	180	162	111			
EAST LOS ANGELES	47	53	48	44	42	43	54	42			
EAST SAN FERNANDO VALLEY	143	145	139	139	131	154	158	94			
FIRESTONE	79	88	88	100	92	85	79	74			
FOOTHILL	49	58	67	66	64	57	58	59			
HARBOR	39	46	39	43	48	44	37	20			
LONG BEACH	95	82	90	94	85	83	82	61			
POMONA VALLEY	97	88	82	72	67	65	56	52			
RIO HONDO	89	92	77	67	69	76	70	68			
RIVERVIEW	0	0	0	1	1	1	0	0			
SAN GABRIEL VALLEY	79	82	83	79	88	83	99	107			
SANTA MONICA	69	55	51	60	49	43	56	37			
SOUTH CENTRAL	54	44	43	36	71	58	62	61			
VALENCIA	24	25	25	28	31	34	34	17			
TOTALS	1241	1259	1193	1204	1206	1209	1206	948			

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Figure 11			
ADULT AND JU	VENILE REI	FERRALS 202	20
RESULTING IN	<b>GRANTS O</b>	F PROBATION	
AREA OFFICE	ADULTS	JUVENILES	TOTALS
ANTELOPE VALLEY	1	0	1
CAMPS	_	1	1
CENTRAL ADULT INVESTIGATION	0	-	0
CENTINELA	0	0	0
CRENSHAW	4	1	5
EAST LOS ANGELES	1	1	2
EAST SAN FERNANDO VALLEY	3	-	3
FIRESTONE	1	0	1
FOOTHILL	0	0	0
HARBOR	1	0	1
LONG BEACH	3	0	3
NORTHEAST JUVENILE JUSTICE CENTER	_	0	0
POMONA VALLEY	3	1	4
RIO HONDO	1	2	3
RIVERVIEW	1	-	1
SAN GABRIEL VALLEY	6	1	7
SANTA MONICA	0	0	0
SOUTH CENTRAL	1	2	3
VALENCIA	0	0	0
VAN NUYS	-	3	3
TOTALS	26	12	38
PERCENT	68.5%	31.5%	100%

Of the 399 Child Abuse referrals received by the Adult Bureau in 2020, 26 resulted in a court ordered grant of formal probation. The adult defendants not placed on formal probation may have been sentenced to state prison, county jail, placed on informal probation to the court, found not guilty or had their cases dismissed. (Figure 11)

Of the 177 Juvenile Child Abuse offense referrals received by the Juvenile Bureau in 2020, 12 offenses resulted in a disposition of probation supervision. Juveniles not placed on probation may have been sentenced to the California Department of Corrections & Rehabilitation, Division of Juvenile Justice (DJJ), found Unfit (referred to adult criminal court), sentenced to Camp Community Placement, had their cases rejected by the District Attorney, transferred out of county, or closed. (Figure 11)

Figure 12  JUVENILE REFERRALS 2016 - 2020  BY TYPE											
PERCENTAGE O	F CHANGE	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	TYPE OF ABUSE/NEGLECT				
DECREASE	44.0%	24	18	17	25	14	EXPLOITATION				
INCREASE	50%	2	2	1	2	3	GENERAL NEGLECT				
INCREASE	19.0%	12	23	24	21	25	PHYSICAL ABUSE				
DECREASE	75%	10	10	2	8	2	SEVERE NEGLECT				
DECREASE	78.6%	154	135	159	201	43	SEXUAL ABUSE				
DECREASE	31.1%	202	188	203	257	177	OVERALL FROM 2016 TO 2020				



Figure 13	Figure 13  JUVENILE REFERRALS 2016 - 2020  BY TYPE												
TYPE	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020					
EXPLOITATION	13	18	23	24	18	17	25	14					
<b>GENERAL NEGLECT</b>	1	1	2	2	2	1	2	3					
PHYSICAL ABUSE	11	17	16	12	23	24	21	25					
SEVERE NEGLECT	14	14	16	10	10	2	8	2					
SEXUAL ABUSE	399	328	230	154	135	159	201	43					
OVERALL TOTALS	438	378	287	202	188	203	257	177					

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Figure 14  JUVENILE REFERRALS 2016 - 2020  BY AGE											
PERCENTAGE	OF CHANGE	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	AGE OF JUVENILES				
DECREASE	100%	5	6	2	1	0	UNDER 11				
DECREASE	33.3%	4	6	8	3	2	11				
INCREASE	80.0%	19	8	13	10	18	12				
DECREASE	30.0%	14	25	24	20	14	13				
DECREASE	47.0%	27	32	26	34	18	14				
INCREASE	53.3%	37	18	26	15	23	15				
DECREASE	25.0%	37	39	37	44	33	16				
DECREASE	48.7%	34	29	36	39	20	17				
DECREASE	25.7%	25	25	31	66	49	18+				

Figure 15  JUVENILE REFERRALS 2016 - 2020  BY ETHNICITY										
PERCENTAGE (	OF CHANGE	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	TYPE OF ABUSE/NEGLECT			
DECREASE	31.4%	35	28	34	35	24	AFRICAN AMERICAN			
INCREASE	300%	3	2	2	1	4	ASIAN/PACIFIC ISLANDER			
INCREASE	100%	-	-	-	0	1	CHINESE			
INCREASE	200%	-	-	-	0	2	FILIPINO			
DECREASE	36.0%	137	135	134	183	117	HISPANIC			
INCREASE	100%	_	-	-	0	1	JAPANESE			
DECREASE	50.0%	22	18	29	30	15	WHITE			
INCREASE	62.5%	5	5	4	8	13	OTHER			

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# Figure 16

# JUVENILE REFERRALS 2016 – 2020 BY AREA OFFICE AND GENDER

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	20	016	20	017	20	18	20	19	20	020
AREA OFFICE	MALE	FEMALE								
TRANSITIONS TO AREA OFFICE	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
ANTELOPE VALLEY	6	2	7	1	10	1	17	0	3	0
CAMPS	3	0	1	0	2	1	4	0	2	0
CENTINELA	8	4	13	2	19	3	23	5	16	0
CRENSHAW	20	3	15	2	9	1	20	0	5	1
EAST LOS ANGELES	7	1	6	0	3	0	2	0	6	0
FIRESTONE	5	1	6	0	11	0	9	0	6	1
FOOTHILL	8	0	8	0	5	0	12	0	7	0
HARBOR	6	1	5	0	8	0	8	0	8	0
LONG BEACH	6	1	7	2	6	0	7	0	8	2
NORTH EAST JUVENILE JUSTICE CENTER	15	2	20	3	11	2	13	2	10	2
POMONA VALLEY	16	1	16	1	20	3	20	5	13	0
RIO HONDO	18	0	5	0	13	1	27	4	20	3
SAN GABRIEL VALLEY	13	1	22	2	22	3	23	1	25	0
SANTA MONICA	2	2	3	0	5	0	2	0	3	2
SOUTH CENTRAL	19	2	20	2	19	0	24	4	17	1
VALENCIA	5	1	4	0	3	0	6	0	0	1
VAN NUYS	23	0	14	0	17	4	18	0	14	1
TOTALS	180	22	173	15	184	19	236	26	163	14



# JUVENILE REFERRALS 2020 BY AGE AND ETHNICITY

				BY AG	E AND ET	HNICITY				
ETHNICIT	Unde TY 11	r 11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18+	TOTAL
AFRICA AMERICA	()	0	3	4	1	5	5	6	4	24
ASIAN, PACIFIC ISLANDI	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	3	4
CHINES		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
FILIPIN	0 0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	2
HISPAN	<b>IC</b> 0	1	9	9	15	12	20	13	38	117
JAPANE:	SE 0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
WHITE	0	0	3	1	2	2	2	2	3	15
OTHER	0	0	3	0	0	2	6	2	0	13
TOTAL	. 0	2	18	14	18	23	33	20	49	177
PERCEN	IT 0.0%	1.1%	10.1%	7.9%	10.1%	12.9%	18.6%	11.3%	27.6%	100%







Figure 18  ADULT AND JUVENILE REFERRALS 2020 BY TYPE											
OFFENSE TYPE	ADULT	PERCENT	JUVENILE	PERCENT	TOTAL						
EXPLOITATION	20	3%	14	2.9%	45						
GENERAL NEGLECT	5	0.75%	3	.30%	7						
PHYSICAL ABUSE	0	-	25	3.1%	21						
SEVERE NEGLECT	11	1.6%	2	1.2%	19						
SEXUAL ABUSE	373	56%	133	30.1%	574						
TOTAL	409		177		666						
PERCENT		61.4%		38.5%							

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Figure 19	Figure 19  ACTIVE JUVENILE SUPERVISION 2020  BY AGE AND ETHNICITY												
ETHNICITY	UNDER 11	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18+	TOTAL			
AFRICAN AMER	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1			
ASIAN/PAC ISL	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0			
LATINO	0	0	0	1	1	3	1	3	0	9			
	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0			
WHITE	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	2			
TOTAL	0	0	0	1	1	3	2	5	0	12			
PERCENT	-	-	-	8.3%	8.3%	25.0%	16.6%	41.6%	-	100%			

Figure 20 ACTIVE JUVENILE SUPERVISION 2020 BY ETHNICITY								
ETHNICITY	TOTAL	PERCENT						
AFRICAN AMERICAN	1	8.3%						
ASIAN/PAC ISL	0	0.0%						
LATINO	9	75.0%						
	0	0.0%						
WHITE	2	16.6%						
TOTAL	12	100%						

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Figure 21	Figure 21  ACTIVE JUVENILE SUPERVISION 2020  BY AGE AND TYPE												
ETHNICITY	UNDER 11	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18+	TOTAL			
EXPLOITATION	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1			
GENERAL NEGLECT	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0			
PHYSICAL ABUSE	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	2			
SEVERE NEGLECT	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1			
SEXUAL ABUSE	0	0	0	1	1	3	1	2	0	8			
TOTAL	0	0	0	1	1	3	2	5	0	12			
PERCENT	-	-	-	8.4%	8.4%	25.0%	16.6%	41.6%	-	100%			

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# DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH

The Department of Mental Health (DMH) administers, develops, coordinates, monitors, and evaluates a continuum of mental health services for children and youth.

#### **MISSION STATEMENT**

To assist children and youth with emotional disorders in developing their ability to function within their families, schools, and communities.

To enable children and youth with emotional and behavioral disorders involved with the Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS), and children and youth at risk of out-of-home placement to remain at home, succeed in school and avoid involvement with the juvenile justice system.

Department of Mental Health (DMH) fulfills its mission by:

- Managing a diverse continuum of programs that provide mental health care for children, youth, and families.
- Promoting the expansion of services through innovative projects, interagency agreements, blended funding, and grant proposals to support new programs.
- Collaborating with other public agencies, particularly the Department of Health Services (DHS), the
  Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS), the Probation Department, the Los Angeles County
  Office of Education (LACOE), and school districts (e.g., LAUSD).
- Promoting the development of County and Statewide mental health policy and legislation to advance the well-being of children, youth, and families.

# PROGRAMS RELATED TO CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT

This report presents the characteristics of children and youth who are victims of, or are at risk of, child abuse and neglect and are receiving mental health services in programs provided by DMH.

Among such programs are those that serve young children who are in or at risk of entering the child welfare system. These include:

- Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) Full Service Partnership (FSP) program, which is an intensive treatment program for children.
- DMH directly-operated programs which includes Ties for Families, Young Mothers and Well Babies, and DMH Contract Provider outpatient programs (including therapeutic preschools) serving children ages 0-5.
- DMH providers participate in First 5 LA's Partnership for Families initiative.

Collectively, these programs provide a continuum of screening, assessment, and treatment, serving the mental health and developmental needs of children from birth to five years of age. They are a critical component



of prevention and early intervention strategies that support comprehensive infant and early childhood mental health systems of care.

In addition, this report covers other programs for children and youth at risk for abuse or neglect. These programs include the following: Multidisciplinary Assessment Team (MAT); Wraparound; Family Preservation (FP); Family Reunification; Juvenile Court Mental Health Services (JCMHS); Dorothy Kirby Center; Juvenile Justice Camps; D-Rate Assessment Unit; Short Term Residential Therapeutic Programs (STRTPs); and Community Treatment Facilities (CTFs).

# **CHILD WELFARE DIVISION**

Katie A. v. Bonta was a class action lawsuit that challenged the long-standing practice of confining abused and neglected children and youth with mental health problems in costly hospitals and large group homes or in foster homes, instead of providing services that would enable them to stay in their homes and communities. Los Angeles County entered into a settlement agreement in May 2003 to develop and implement strategies to provide the plaintiff class with care and services consistent with effective child welfare and mental health practice. On March 14, 2006, Federal Judge A. Howard Matz issued an injunction requiring that the County screen members of the plaintiff class to identify children and youth who may need individualized mental health services.

Los Angeles County DMH created the Child Welfare Division (CWD) as part of the Katie A. Settlement Agreement. CWD is a centralized DMH administrative structure that provides oversight and coordination of countywide activities related to mental health services for children and youth in the county's child welfare system. CWD works closely with DCFS, Plaintiff's Counsel, County Counsel, the Katie A. Advisory Panel, and other County departments to comply with the Katie A. Settlement Agreement.

DMH Specialized Foster Care (SFC) are mental health staff co-located Countywide. DMH SFC staff are assigned to all DCFS Regional Offices and are a critical component of Katie A. SFC staff improves access for children and youth involved in the child welfare system and provides mental health screening, assessment, crisis intervention, brief treatment, and linkage to mental health treatment in the community. In addition, SFC staff participate in Child and Family Team (CFT) meetings.

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#### CHILD WELFARE PROCESSES AND PROGRAMS

## **Coordinated Services Action Team (CSAT)**

The CSAT is an administrative network in each DCFS regional office that coordinates screening and assessment of: (a) newly detained, (b) newly opened and non-detained, and (c) existing DCFS cases. Every child or youth under DCFS supervision is given a mental health screening by a Children's Social Worker (CSW) using a brief checklist, the California Institute of Mental Health/Mental Health Screening Tool (CIMH/MHST) or (after a phased roll out) using the Mental Health Referral (MHR), which includes the Child and Adolescent Needs and Strengths (CANS) tool. All screenings are referred for assessment and possible mental health services. CSAT provides a Services Linkage Specialist (SLS) to assist CSWs in identifying suitable service linkages. Implemented in May 2009, CSAT initiated a monthly Referral and Tracking System (RTS) Summary Data Report that tracks rates of screenings and referrals. CSAT is primarily a DCFS process, which participates in the DMH SFC co-located programs.

On April 30, 2015, the Board approved annual reports summarizing progress of all Service Planning Areas (SPA) for screenings and referrals for the twelve months of each Calendar Year (CY). A summary of screening/referral data as issued by DCFS and DMH for CY 2020, January 1, 2020 through December 31, 2020, has been included below.

- 97.57% (15,815) of children/youth who were eligible for screening were screened for mental health needs.
- 94.91% (15,010) of children/youth who were screened for mental health services screened positive.
- 97.62% (14,655) of children/youth who screened positive were referred to mental health services.
- 94.99% (13,911) of children/youth referred for services received mental health service activities within the required timelines.

# Multidisciplinary Assessment Team (MAT)

MAT is a collaborative assessment process offered through DCFS and DMH. Newly detained children and youth in the child welfare system with full-scope Medi-Cal and in out-of-home placement qualify for a MAT assessment. Each is eligible to receive a comprehensive assessment of their medical,



dental, educational, caregiver, and mental health needs. Within 45 days of receiving the referral, the DMH MAT provider conducts an age appropriate assessment – Infancy, Childhood and Relationship Enrichment Initial Assessment (ICARE) or the Child/Adolescent Full Assessment – and completes a MAT Summary of Findings Report. The report is discussed with the child/youth's Child and Family Team (CFT), incorporated into the child/youth's DCFS Case Plan, and then shared with court. MAT staff link children/youth to mental health services and provide families with needed referrals based on the findings and recommendations of the team.

Countywide 3,849 children and youth had a MAT assessment completed in Fiscal Year (FY) 2020-2021. Of this sample, 2,231 children (58%) were between the ages of 0 to 5 at the time of their initial detention.

## **DMH Services at the Countywide Medical Hubs**

DMH provides comprehensive mental health services through its co-located mental health staff with the Department of Health Services (DHS) Medical Hubs (Hubs). The Hubs are DHS facilities and include Martin Luther King, Jr. Medical Center, Olive View Medical Center, Harbor-UCLA Medical Center, and High Desert Regional Health Center. DMH provides mental health services at the Hubs in an integrated and collaborative service delivery model, in collaboration with Department of Public Health (DPH), DHS and DCFS. The goal of colocating services is to improve the access to health and mental health care for DCFS involved children and youth who are newly detained or under a child welfare investigation. DMH staff at the Hubs provide services that include but are not limited to the identification, screening, consultation, and linkage to Specialty Mental Health Services (SMHS).

DMH expanded its services by allocating additional staff at each of the Hubs. DMH staff prioritize children and youth ages birth to five, Commercially Sexually Exploited Children and Youth (CSEC), children discharged from psychiatric hospitals and those in need of immediate crisis intervention.

During the FY 2020-2021, the Medical Hubs served over 16, 000 total clients.

## Family and Children's Index (FCI)

FCI is the name given to the Los Angeles County customized application authorized by California

Welfare and Institutions Code (WIC) section 18961.5. The statute allows children services, health services, law enforcement, mental health services, probation, schools, and social services agencies within counties to share specific information about families who have had relevant contacts with these agencies and who have been identified as being at risk for child abuse or neglect. The statute requires that each county develop their own "at-risk" definition. As a "pointer" system, FCI directs authorized users of participating agencies to other participating agencies who have had contact with the family, subject to an initial search match made through the application. Once users are pointed to other agencies, the statute requires that confidential, substantive information about a family must be shared through the formation of Multi-Disciplinary Teams (MDTs), unless some other legally permissible way to share that information already exists. The application can only store specific information as allowed by WIC 18961.5. It does so by receiving data from participating agency databases using a set of agency-specific at-risk indicators (filters) that conform to the County's at-risk definition. Once these records are identified using those filters, allowable information is electronically imported into the FCI database.

During FY 2020-2021, DMH provided information in response to 7,105 FCI Inquiries.

#### Wraparound

The Wraparound Program is an integrated, community-based, intensive services program intended for children and youth who are experiencing serious emotional and behavioral problems. It serves children and youth ages 0-21 who are Medi-Cal eligible and are receiving services from DCFS, Probation or are in an adoptive placement. The program is a collaboration between DMH, DCFS, and the Probation Department.

Wraparound is a strengths-based process that serves children, youth, and their families in their communities. Services incorporate Intensive Care Coordination (ICC) and Intensive Home Based Services (IHBS) to build upon the family strengths while simultaneously supporting the needs identified by the Child and Family Team (CFT).

The Integrated Core Practice Model (ICPM) is the framework that identifies shared values, core components, and standards of practice that ensure Wraparound services are culturally relevant and trauma informed. Children, youth, and their families

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are the experts in their lives and take an active role in driving service delivery. Wraparound services are individualized, centered on preserving the family's integrity, and allow the child and youth to live and grow in a safe, stable, and permanent family environment, minimizing the need for higher levels of care.

The Wraparound program has emphasized the need for trauma-informed services for children, youth, and their families by offering ongoing trainings for DMH staff and contracted Legal Entities that support a culturally competent and trauma-informed practice.

In CY 2020, there were 46 Wraparound Legal Entities at 105 sites throughout the County. The Wraparound program served an average of 2,389 children and youth each month, which included 175 Probation cases, 55 Post Adoption cases, and 15 Indigent cases.

# Intensive Field Capable Clinical Services (IFCCS)

IFCCS are an array of services firmly grounded in the ICPM and are intended to expedite access to ICC and IHBS. IFCCS is an intensive mental health program that provides field-based, traumasensitive services to children and youth with an open child welfare case. IFCCS is designed to foster relationships built upon strengths of the children, youth, and their families with the goal to minimize psychiatric hospitalizations and promote placement stability.

The IFCCS team follows the child or youth regardless of placement to ensure continuity of care and can offer a full range of mental health services, including individual and family therapy, ICC and IHBS. These services are coordinated and organized through the CFT process.

During FY 2020-2021, youth served were 921. Of those, 472 (51%) were female and 449 (49%) were male.

#### **Intensive Services Foster Care (ISFC)**

The ISFC program is an intensive mental health treatment program that seeks to reduce placement instability and provides an alternative to congregate care settings with many residents and professional staff. ISFC places children and youth in foster homes in which the child or youth is typically the only foster child/youth. They will have a treatment team including a Foster Family Agency (FFA) social worker, an In-

Home Support Counselor (IHSC), therapist, and when needed, a psychiatrist. This treatment team provides the child or youth with individualized mental health services and supports while coordinating with other needed service programs. ISFC foster parents receive additional training hours, have access to 24/7 support and are active participants in the child or youth's treatment. Children and youth are placed after their needs are matched with the unique strengths and skills of the ISFC foster parents. During FY 2020-2021, there were 97 ISFC placements. Of these, 47 (48%) were male and 50 (52%) were female. Broken down by age, 3 (3%) were between the ages 0-5, 59 (61%) were between the ages of 6-12, 34 (35%) were between the ages of 13-17, and 1 (1%) were between the ages of 18-20.

#### DMH SUPPORT TO STAFF AND PROVIDERS

#### **Training and Coaching**

During FY 2020-2021, DMH Training and Coaching, in partnership with University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA) Prevention Center of Excellence, offered over 100 trainings on an ongoing basis to support learning and skill development for DMH staff, DCFS staff, Probation staff, mental health contracted provider staff and resource parents delivering mental health services to children and youth. These continuous learning opportunities promoted the effective application of the core values, guiding principles and practice behaviors defined by the Continuum of Care Reform (CCR) legislation and the Integrated Core Practice Model (ICPM) to help improve the lives of children and youth in the child welfare system. Trainings were adapted and delivered virtually via live web-broadcast and several trainings were recorded for on-demand access. Through coaching the goal is to assist staff in reflecting upon and improving their practice, by helping them utilize a cultural lens and a traumaresponsive approach to uncover underlying needs and recognize the unique strengths of children, youth, and families. Understanding the underlying needs of children and youth allows for the development of individualized and uniquely developed plans and services.

# ADDITIONAL MENTAL HEALTH PROGRAMS FOR CHILDREN INVOLVED WITH PROBATION AND CHILD WELFARE

**Short Term Residential Therapeutic Programs** (STRTP)



STRTPs were established beginning January 1, 2017 by Assembly Bill 403 (Chapter 773) in order to reduce reliance on group residential care as a long-term placement setting. Continuum of Care Reform (CCR) transformed the group home system and replaced it with the STRTP licensing category, with the purpose of creating facilities that provide a higher level of intensive services and supports than group homes traditionally provided.

STRTPisthehighestlevelofresidentialplacementand treatment, outside of a locked Community Treatment Facility (CTF) or psychiatric hospitalization. STRTPs are required to provide specialized and intensive care, supervision, services, supports, treatment, short-term 24-hour care and supervision to children, youth, and non-minor dependents (NMDs) whose needs cannot be safely met in a family setting.

The recommendation to place a child/youth in an STRTP shall come from the CFT, if available, following assessment by the Qualified Individual (QI) and screening by the Interagency Placement Committee (IPC). A designated QI shall conduct and complete an assessment 30 calendar days from the date of the QI referral or from the date of placement into an STRTP, whichever comes first, to determine whether the child, youth, or NMD's needs can instead be met in a less restrictive, family-based setting. The goal is to ensure that children and youth are placed in the most appropriate and least restrictive setting to meet their needs. The evaluation utilizes screening tools, assessment reports, evaluation instruments, previous placement, treatment experiences and other relevant information provided by Child and Family Teams.

All services in the STRTP are expected to be culturally relevant, developmentally appropriate, and trauma informed. STRTPs must obtain a mental health contract, a Mental Health Program Approval (MHPA) and be Medi-Cal certified within one year of obtaining their STRTP license. The MHPA helps to ensure that the mental health services provided in the STRTPs are in compliance with the state regulations and meeting the intensive needs of the placed children and youth. The STRTP providers must directly provide Specialty Mental Health Services (SMHS).

In addition, STRTPs must provide the following core services and supports:

Transition Support Services

- Education and physical, behavioral, and mental health supports, including extracurricular activities and social supports.
- Activities designed to support achieving a successful adulthood.
- Services to achieve permanent placement.

STRTPs are required to obtain national accreditation from one of the following entities:

- The Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities (CARF)
- The Council on Accreditation (COA)
- The Joint Commission (JC)

In FY 2020-2021, there were 25 Legal Entity Providers with 69 licensed STRTPs serving 2,366 children and youth including, 1,009 females, 1,323 males and 34 transgender youth, 163 children ages 0-13 and 2,203 youth ages 13-18+.

## **Family Preservation Program**

Family Preservation (FP) is a collaborative effort between DMH, DCFS, Probation and the community to reduce out-of-home placement and the length of stay in foster care, and to shorten the time to achieve permanent placement for children or youth at risk of abuse, neglect, and delinquent behavior. The program's model is a community-based collaborative approach that focuses on preserving families experiencing challenges related to child abuse, neglect and/or child exploitation. These support services are designed to keep children or youth and their families together. DCFS allocates funds to DMH to provide FP mental health services to uninsured individuals. FP programs provide mental health services in every Service Area (SA).

Mental health services are one of the many services offered by the FP program. The mental health component is provided as a linkage service identified at, or prior to, the Multi-Disciplinary Case Planning Committee (MCPC) meeting. Mental health services through DMH focus on improving the functioning of the most serious or chronically emotionally disturbed children, youth, and adults. This has been a successful strategy that allows for an integrated treatment approach by providing therapeutic interventions that improve child, youth, and family functioning. In addition, the FP program aims at developing effective parental coping skills,



which reduce the risk of child abuse, neglect, and delinquent behaviors.

Mental health services offered included: assessment and evaluation; individual, group, and family therapy/rehabilitation; collateral services; medication support; crisis intervention; ICC; IHBS; and targeted case management provided in the child's community, school, and home.

During FY 2020-2021, the Family Preservation agencies referred 1,448 individuals to Family Preservation Mental Health Services. Of those referred, 1,115 individuals had Medi-Cal, and 333 (23%) individuals were uninsured (indigent). DMH FP service providers served 813 of the FP consumers referred, of which 27 % were indigent. Eighty percent (80%) of the indigent FP consumers were FP adults.

# **Reunification of Missing Children Program**

The Reunification of Missing Children programs are part of the Reunification of Missing Children Task Force chaired by Find the Children, a non-profit corporation dedicated to the recovery of missing children or youth, and the Inter-Agency Council on Child Abuse and Neglect (ICAN). The Task force meets monthly. Its members include Los Angeles Police Department (LAPD), Los Angeles Sheriff's Department (LASD), DCFS, County Counsel, the Federal Bureau of Investigations (FBI), the U.S. Secret Service, the Mexican Consulate and the District Attorney's Office. Find the Children works closely with the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children. It refers children or youth and parents to the reunification programs in response to requests received from DCFS, Probation, the Department of Justice, the State Department, the FBI, local law enforcement agencies and the Family Court Judge.

The Family Reunification program provides Community Outreach families. services Consumers in need of mental health treatment (and their families) are given information about mental health resources near their residence. Families referred to the Family Reunification program receive family therapy, child therapy, or group therapy, combinations of these interventions, as well as parenting classes. Outreach families who are not referred for mental health treatment do not present with an Axis I diagnosis, nor do they meet the medical necessity criteria for admission into DMH. However, they do receive interventions such as social skills

training and parenting classes.

The reunification program's goal is to assist in the process of reunification with the left-behind parent(s), to help determine appropriate placement, and to address any related trauma. The referral source for all reunification cases is the Find the Children Agency.

DMH contracted mental health providers provide culturally sensitive, crisis-oriented consultation, assessment, and treatment immediately following the recovery of a child or youth who had been abducted, often by a non-custodial parent. In FY 2020-2021, 16 children and youth were referred for services.

#### Wellnest

Wellnest, a nonprofit mental health services provider serving central and south Los Angeles, continues to be available to offer services to children and youth who have been recovered from abduction. Wellnest promotes easy access through its no-fee, walk-in center; its field-based services in homes, schools, and community sites; along with its community-based office and housing. It promotes early intervention through the Early Intervention Program for children 0 to 5 years old. Services are family-centered, strength-based and available in English and Spanish.

Wellnest providers use a trauma informed perspective and employ a variety of modalities in treatment. Trauma is conceptualized as an experience or experiences that disrupt primary attachments and thus compromise a child's ability to regulate emotions and behaviors. This results in the delay of the development of appropriate competencies. Consequently, the therapeutic work is focused on enhancing family relationships and developing connectedness as a path to recovery and building resiliency. The child, youth and family are crucial to treatment and are active partners in goal setting and in treatment. Wellnest providers may use individual and/or family therapy, targeted case management, individual rehabilitation, and psychiatric services.

#### **Didi Hirsch Mental Health Services**

The Family Reunification Program at Didi Hirsch continues to be available to offer services to children and youth who have been recovered from abduction. Culturally and linguistically appropriate mental health and case management services are available



at four Didi Hirsch locations across Los Angeles including Inglewood, Taper (South Central), Metro (Downtown), and Glendale. Therapist are trained in a variety of Evidence-Based practices, including Trauma-Focused Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (TF-CBT). Services are available via telehealth, in the office, field or school for children birth to 20 years old.

## **Foothill Family Services**

Foothill Family provides an Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnostic, and Treatment (EPSDT) funded Family Reunification program to children and youth, ages 0-21, referred by Find the Children. The goal is to assist children and youth in their recovery from child abduction, reduce the children and youth's mental disability, enable youth to use their time meaningfully, live in safe environments, have a network of supportive social relationships, have timely access to help, including in times of crisis, and the maintenance or improvement of physical health as it relates to mental health goals. In FY 2020-2021, the reunification program served 16 children referred by Find the Children. Of the 16 children who received services, 56% were of Hispanic descent, 38% were African American, and 6% were Caucasian.

Foothill Family's expertise in specialized services to children 0-5; their extensive school-based services; conveniently located offices; in-home and community-based services for underserved and unserved children and youth; and long history of services for children and youth detained, or at risk of detention, by DCFS or Probation makes them an ideal provider for Find the Children referrals. Trauma Focused Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (TF-CBT) is the evidence-based treatment used for children and youth that have been exposed to trauma.

Foothill Family's Family Reunification Program provides linguistically and culturally appropriate community mental health services to children and youth throughout SA3. Services include mental health services, medication support, targeted case management, psychological testing, and crisis intervention. Services are provided by licensed or license eligible therapists, psychologists, experienced Child Specialists, and licensed psychiatrists.

# **DMH D-Rate Unit Program**

The DMH D-Rate Unit continued to be a collaborative partnership between DMH and DCFS. DMH utilized

licensed assessors to evaluate children and youth to determine the need for a specialized increment foster care rate. The assessments included recommendations regarding mental health needs, educational needs, and regional center services, as well as ancillary services. The DMH D-Rate Unit assisted with coordinating care by sharing information with DCFS. In addition, DMH assisted with the identification of appropriate mental health services, referrals, and community resources. The DMH D-Rate Unit also re-assessed the D-Rateeligible children and youth every year following the initial certification of eligibility. During FY 2020-2021, a total of 725 children/youth were referred for an assessment. Of the total number of referrals. 559 assessments were completed. A total of 227 re-certifications were completed following the initial D-Rate certification. Effective April 1, 2021, DCFS began utilizing the Level of Care Division to determine the placement needs of children and youth. The DMH D-Rate assessment was no longer necessary for determining the appropriate level of care and the DMH D-Rate Program ended on June 30, 2021.

## **Community Treatment Facility (CTF)**

The Community Treatment Facility (CTF) is a state licensing category for residential treatment placement of minors. It is a higher level of care than the Short-Term Residential Treatment Programs (STRTPs) and was created as an alternative to the State Hospital. In FY 2020-2021, there were two CTFs with a total of 66 beds. Star View offered 42 beds, 22 of which were designated for males and 20 for females. Vista del Mar offered 24 CTF beds, 16 of which were designated for females and eight for males. Note that both Star View and Vista del Mar had flexibility in designating beds for females and males based on demand or need.

The criteria for placement at the CTF level of care include all of the criteria for STRTPs plus an inability to be served in a less restrictive setting, as evidenced by unsuccessful placements in open settings, denials of admission from STRTPs; high-risk aggressive, self-destructive, or substance use behaviors; and the motivation to benefit from treatment in a more restrictive treatment setting. In FY 2020-2021, DMH provided services to 51 Los Angeles County minors in the CTF level of care. The sources of referral for the 51 residents were 96% (49) from DCFS and 4% (2) from Probation. Of the 51 total residents 29% (15) were male and 71% (36) were female.



## Specialized Linkage Services Unit (SLSU)

The Specialized Linkage Services Unit (SLSU) participated in discharge planning teleconferences for DCFS and Probation involved minors who were being discharged from DHS directly-operated and Los Angeles County-contracted psychiatric hospitals. Issues discussed on each call included the child/ youth's presentation during hospitalization, placement plan upon discharge, status and efficacy of existing mental health services and educational/regional center concerns. Also included was a discussion of psychotropic medication, including medication type, dosage, side effects/adverse effects, prescriptions, and court authorizations. The SLSU Case Manager assisted in identifying appropriate service(s) for the child/youth, completed the appropriate referrals and confirmed active participation in services through consultation with the treatment provider and DCFS/ Probation. During FY 2020-2021, 844 discharge planning teleconferences were completed; 842 were completed for DCFS-involved youth and two were completed for Probation-involved youth.

The SLSU also monitored the psychiatric hospital admissions of Medi-Cal eligible children and youth in Los Angeles County. Case managers attended weekly treatment team meetings with hospital staff and regularly consulted on shared cases. SLSU engaged in follow up, discharge aftercare and case coordination with the following Los Angeles and Orange County hospitals on a regular basis: Aurora-Charter Oak Hospital (Covina); BHC-Alhambra Hospital (Rosemead); Gateways Hospital (Los Angeles); UCLA-Resnick Neuropsychiatric Hospital (Los Angeles); LAC/USC Inpatient Services - Augustus F. Hawkins (Los Angeles); Kedren Community Hospital (Los Angeles); College Hospital (Cerritos); College Hospital (Costa Mesa); and Del Amo Hospital (Torrance).

# **JUVENILE JUSTICE**

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## Juvenile Court Mental Health Services (JCMHS)

In Los Angeles County, there are over 25,000 children and youth under the jurisdiction of the Juvenile Court. Many of these children and youth have significant needs for mental health services, and approximately 10% are being treated with psychotropic medications. Juvenile Court judicial officers must make decisions regarding the mental health of children and youth under their jurisdiction. To optimally interface with the mental health provider system, it is vital for the Juvenile Court to have timely

access to mental health consultation and liaison services. Juvenile Court Mental Health Services (JCMHS) serves this function.

The mission of JCMHS is to optimize mental health care for children and youth who are under the jurisdiction of the Juvenile Court. JCMHS accomplishes this goal through facilitation of effective Court decisions by helping all Court personnel obtain and interpret relevant mental health information and promoting collaboration between the various agencies in making and implementing plans to meet children's mental health needs.

When a child or youth is referred to JCMHS, mental health information regarding the child is obtained by various means including direct clinical evaluation, speaking to others who are significant sources of information, and reviewing clinical and other records, etc. JCMHS consults with judges, attorneys, CSWs, probation officers, child and youth advocates, family members and others and serves as liaison between them and members of the mental health provider system. This service facilitates the Court's understanding of children and youth's mental health problems and needs for services and enables the Court and related agencies to effectively access mental health resources on behalf of the child and youth. JCMHS also provides a portal through which the mental health system is able to communicate with the Court system.

The mental health needs of Juvenile Court dependents and wards are often complex, and their elucidation may best be accomplished by a multi-disciplinary approach. Recognizing this, JCMHS functions may be performed by clinicians of different disciplines working as a team.

Functions of JCMHS fall into three main categories:

# General Mental Health Consultation and Liaison to Dependency Courts

Upon request by Juvenile Court personnel, JCMHS staff perform the following functions:

- Assessment by JCMHS to clarify a child/youth's mental health needs, whether they are benefiting from existing services, and if not, what new services should be provided.
- Assisting the Court to determine when mental health evaluations would be useful in a given case and what types of evaluations to order.





- Assisting the Court in understanding and interpreting the results of evaluations.
- Facilitating obtaining information and services from the mental health system.
- Providing information about mental health placement and treatment resources.
- Facilitating multi-agency collaboration to meet mental health treatment goals.
- Organizing case conferences to achieve collaboration in difficult or unusual cases.

These functions may be provided by any of the clinical staff (i.e., Psychiatric Social Workers, Mental Health Registered Nurses (RNs), and/or Child and Adolescent Psychiatrists).

## **Participation in the Crossover Youth Project**

Pursuant to the Juvenile Court WIC 241.1 protocol multi-agency (DCFS, Probation and DMH) evaluation of children and youth who appear to fall under both WIC 300 and 600 sections is performed. The product of this process is a report to the Court recommending which branch of the Juvenile Court (dependency or delinquency) should have jurisdiction. The role of JCMHS is to make mental health recommendations to the judicial officers to best meet the mental health needs of the minor.

JCMHS clinicians collaborate with the CSW and Deputy Probation Officer (DPO) to:

- Collect existing mental health information.
- Obtain or perform new assessments if permitted by the minor's attorneys.
- Determine the extent and nature of a child/ youth's need for mental health services.
- Recommendations are documented in a written JCMHS report, which is incorporated in the overall multi-agency report.
- Participate in multi-disciplinary team meetings to discuss findings and recommendations and appear in juvenile delinquency court hearings as requested.
- Consult with DMH SFC staff to share information regarding any mental health issues, services and needs of these children and youth in order to assist SFC staff with linking minors to available

and appropriate services.

 WIC section 241.1 activities are primarily performed by Psychiatric Social Workers.

# Psychotropic Medication Treatment Monitoring and Quality Improvement

Pursuant to the Juvenile Court Psychotropic Medication Authorization Protocol, J C M H S medical staff (Clinical Pharmacist or Child and Adolescent Psychiatrist) review all requests to the Juvenile Court for authorization to administer psychotropic medication to children and youth under Court jurisdiction and make recommendations to the Court as to the propriety of the proposed treatment. This enables the Court to obtain and properly interpret information relevant to decision making regarding such authorization. (Approximately 10,000 requests for Court authorization to administer psychotropic medication are reviewed each year.)

Pursuant to a request from children and youth's judges or attorneys, JCMHS medical staff perform assessments of children or youth's need for treatment with psychotropic medication, response to treatment, presence of adverse effects, etc., and consult with their attorneys and judges regarding authorization of the treatment and/or intervention by the Court to make changes in treatment.

# Participation in the Competency Remediation Process for Juveniles

JCMHS has also been involved in the creation and delivery of educational services for delinquency involved youth who have been found incompetent to assist in their legal proceedings. Youth, who have been found incompetent for reasons of mental health or developmental immaturity, are referred for an eight-week program that attempts to explain the juvenile court system, all the relevant people in that system and the possible outcomes of the proceedings.

# **Juvenile Hall Mental Health Units**

In order to identify youth in need of mental health services in the two LA County juvenile halls, all newly admitted youth are screened and assessed by a mental health professional as part of a systematic process. Each youth is individually assessed upon admission. Youth identified during the screening and assessment process as needing on-going care are assigned to a DMH treating clinician. DMH

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continues to administer the Commercial Sexual Exploitation Identification Tool (CSE-IT) to all newly admitted youth. The CSE-IT helps to identify youth who may be involved in, or at high risk of, being victims of trafficking. In addition, DMH collaborated with Probation on the development of the Detention Interagency Identification and Response Protocol for CSEC youth.

During 2020, the average daily number of open mental health cases at Barry J. Nidorf and Central Juvenile Hall were 150 and 192, respectively, and the average daily number of youth on psychotropic medication were 69 and 66, respectively.

During FY 2020-21, while the overall population of the juvenile halls decreased, the number or percentage of youth requiring mental health treatment has increased substantially. Additionally, while face to face, on-site services continued throughout 2020-2021, there were numerous unit quarantines during COVID, and telehealth was implemented in the living units to sustain the level of mental health services.

To meet the complex needs of youth, a number of specialized units were developed to provide enhanced services for youth with high mental health and other needs. These units include the following: Girl's and Boy's CARE Units, Girl's and Boy's Enhanced Supervision Units, and the Developmentally Disabled Unit. Probation screens all newly admitted youth for potential developmental disabilities and refers any youth who screen positive to the Regional Center. DMH, LACOE and Probation complete multidisciplinary/multimodal assessments for these youth and develop Individual Habilitative Treatment Plans (IHTP) for each youth during the time that they are incarcerated.

DMH staff are available in all juvenile halls seven days per week, extended hours (including evenings and weekends) to screen, assess, provide treatment, and respond to crises that arise. In all the juvenile halls, DMH staff are co-located on the living units to be readily available to youth and Probation staff. In addition, there are confidential Access to Care boxes on every living unit so that youth can anonymously request services. DMH staff check these seven days per week.

DMH has multi-disciplinary staff, including psychiatrists, psychologists, licensed clinical social workers, marriage and family counselors, and case managers. High quality psychiatric services are available at all three juvenile halls. There is a

24-hour on-call psychiatrist schedule, which is widely distributed throughout the system in case there are emergencies after hours. Within the juvenile justice programs, DMH uses the Probation Electronic Medical Record System (PEMRS), which is a combined medical and mental health record. PEMRS allows staff to access clinical work that has been done in any of the facilities.

# **Dorothy Kirby Center**

Dorothy Kirby Center (DKC) is a probation residential treatment facility located in SA7, which provides services to children and youth from the entire county. Its Mental Health Unit (MHU) consists of a treatment program within the boundaries of a secure residential placement facility directly operated by the Probation Department. The mental health unit functions under a Memorandum of Understanding between DMH and Probation.

The staff of the mental health unit consists of one Mental Health Clinical Program Manager II, Mental Health Clinical Supervisors, Licensed Clinical Social Worker (LCSW), Master of Social Work (MSW), Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist (LMFT), Licensed Psychologists, Psychiatrists, Substance Abuse Counselor, Licensed Recreational Therapist, Community Worker/Family Advocate, Secretary, Staff Assistant and Clerical/Support Staff.

Dorothy Kirby's MHU is a secure (locked) residential treatment center serving adolescent males and females between the ages of 13-18. All youth referred to Dorothy Kirby receive a screening consisting of an interview with the youth, caretaker and or relevant other parties, and a review of relevant records. A licensed clinician interviews each referral in one of the juvenile halls. One hundred percent of youth are assessed after a face-to-face screening. Youth are referred to the Screening Committee comprised by Probation and DMH administrative clinical staff. The Dorothy Kirby Center has the capacity to house a total of 100 youth.

All referrals come through the Juvenile Court system. All clients are wards of the Juvenile Court, having had criminal petitions brought against them and sustained. In addition, many have extensive criminal arrest records. All have ICD-10-CM diagnoses and functional impairment. A high percentage of youth are diagnosed with substance abuse, deeply ganginvolved and large majority come from severely dysfunctional homes. Many of the youth have had prior involvement with DCFS. Referrals to DKC are



made by a judge or a deputy probation officer. During the stay at Dorothy Kirby Center all the youth receive an array of mental health services.

Adolescents admitted to Dorothy Kirby Center have exhibited maladaptive and delinquent behaviors that have been influenced by an identifiable mental disorder, such as PTSD, substance abuse, and severe symptoms of trauma, depression, anxiety, ADHD, to name a few. In addition, many of the female youth are high risk and or have been identified as Commercially Sexually Exploited Children (CSEC). Dorothy Kirby Center operates as an Intensive Outpatient Services (IOP) program. The IOP program includes individual and family therapy, groups, medication support services and crisis intervention. Group therapies include Dialectical Behavior Therapy (DBT) groups, Seeking Safety and Substance Abuse groups.

# **Juvenile Justice Camps**

During FY 2020-2021, DMH provided mental health services at Probation Camps and the Camp Assessment Center operated by the Probation Department located throughout Los Angeles County. The Probation Camps are in Malibu, La Verne and San Dimas.

The Probation Camps have mental health staff onsite seven days per week, including evenings and holidays. In addition, Camp Navigators facilitate linkage for youth to community mental health services upon release. Three clinic drivers and one community worker coordinate bringing families to multi-agency team meetings and to family therapy sessions. Although this aspect of the program was impacted by COVID safety guidelines.

The Camp Assessment Unit is housed at Barry J. Nidorf Juvenile Hall. Mental Health, Probation and LACOE staff review youth with new camp orders to determine which camp can meet their needs. This review includes criminal risk, education, and mental health factors.

The rebuilt Campus Kilpatrick opened in July of 2017. The new campus has a more home-like design with smaller living units. The Probation Department, DMH, Juvenile Court Health Services, the Arts Commission, and various advocacy groups participated in planning meetings in order to design the LA Model for the new facility. In July 2020, Campus Kilpatrick returned to the Malibu facility following evacuation during the Woolsey fire.

These other Probation camps practice an integrated treatment model. As part of the model, Probation and Mental Health staff co-facilitate adapted Dialectical Behavior Therapy (DBT) groups to assist youth in learning skills to function more effectively in camp and in the community. All camps provide individual, family, group, collateral, and aftercare/linkage services. Medication services are available at all open camps; this ensures that youth on psychotropic medications are able to go to any camp.

During FY 2020-2021, based upon the average daily population of the camps, DMH clinical staff treated close to 100% of the total population. In addition, DMH designed and implemented a 10-week Co-Occurring Disorder group series across the entire camp system. These groups are modeled on the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) programs, which combine Cognitive Behavioral Treatment (CBT) interventions with motivational interviewing techniques. A fiveweek psychoeducational group series was also provided to youth who did not have a substance use/abuse diagnosis. Youth in these groups were administered pre and posttests and there was a significant reduction in their motivation to use drugs and alcohol. DMH also conducts Seeking Safety and Mindfulness Based Substance Abuse groups throughout the camps.

Across the camp programs, there is a Multi-Disciplinary Team (MDT) process wherein youth participate in MDTs that include DMH, Probation, LACOE, parents, outside school districts, among other key players. These MDTs occur within 10 days of admission to camp (initial MDT), as needed during their incarceration to address a range of issues (as needed MDT) and 30-45 days prior to release from camp (Transitional MDT). This process has greatly enhanced the coordinated case planning for each youth during their camp stay and upon release to their communities and families.

The Juvenile Justice Transitional Outpatient Services (JJ-TOTS) program was implemented to serve as a bridge program for youth re-entering the community. Psychiatric and other appointments are scheduled before the youth leaves from camp to reduce the chance that youth will be lost to treatment. Services continue until a solidified linkage is accomplished.



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# DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SOCIAL SERVICES

The Department of Public Social Services (DPSS) had an operating budget of \$4.593 billion and 13,791 employees in Fiscal Year (FY) 2020-2021. The primary responsibilities of DPSS are:

- To provide assistance to low-income residents of Los Angeles County;
- · To promote economic mobility; and
- To refer a child to protective services whenever it is suspected that the child is being abused, neglected or exploited, or the home in which the child is living in is unsuitable.

#### **DPSS MISSION**

To enrich lives through effective and caring service.

#### **DPSS PHILOSOPHY**

DPSS believes that it can help those it serves to enhance the quality of their lives, provide for themselves and their families, and make positive contributions to the community.

DPSS believes that to fulfill its mission, services must be provided in an environment that supports the professional development of its staff and promotes shared leadership, teamwork, and individual responsibility. DPSS believes that as it moves toward the future, it can serve as a catalyst for commitment and action within the community, resulting in expanded resources, innovative programs and services, and new public and private sector partnerships.

# **DPSS PROGRAMS**

The State and Federal assistance programs that DPSS administers include California Work Opportunity and Responsibility to Kids (CalWORKs), CalFresh and Medi-Cal. DPSS also administers the following programs: the Cal-Learn program for CalWORKs eligible pregnant/parenting teens under the age of 19 working toward completing their high school education; the In-Home Supportive Services (IHSS) Program; General Relief (GR) program for the County's indigent adult population; Greater Avenues for Independence (GAIN) and General Relief Opportunities for Work (GROW) programs for the CalWORKs and GR employable populations; Cash Assistance Program for Immigrants (CAPI), a portion of the Refugee Resettlement Program; and Refugee Cash Assistance (RCA) and Refugee Social Services. The goal of these programs is to provide the essentials of food, clothing, shelter, and medical care to eligible families and individuals. In 2020, DPSS provided public assistance to a monthly average of 3.6 million individuals, including IHSS.

# CASELOAD CHARACTERISTICS BY SERVICE PLANNING AREAS (SPA) - CITIZENSHIP STATUS, PRIMARY LANGUAGE, AND ETHNIC ORIGIN

Figures 1.a through 1.9 display the total number of individuals aided by citizenship status and ethnic origin, and the total number of cases aided broken down by primary language for all programs by SPA.

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# **Department of Public Social Services**

#### AIDED CASELOAD

In total, there was a 7.52 % increase (262,088) in the number of individuals receiving assistance for all programs combined from December 2019 to December 2020 (Figure 2).

The following DPSS programs provide services where children are most likely to receive aid:

#### **CalWORKs**

During the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, there was a significant increase in the number of individuals receiving CalWORKs between April 2020 to June 2020. Since July 2020, the number of individuals receiving CalWORKs steadily declined. In fact, the number of individuals receiving CalWORKs in December 2020 was 249,529, which represents a 6.61% decrease (-17,656 individuals) compared to 267,185 individuals aided in December 2019 (Figure 2). The number of individuals receiving assistance through the CalWORKs program show a steady decline over the decade as follows:

From January 2011 through December 2016, there was an average of approximately 4.2% fewer individuals receiving CalWORKs.

From January 2017 through December 2020, there was an average of approximately 7.4% fewer individuals receiving CalWORKs (Figure 6).

# **CalFresh**

The CalFresh program has experienced a steady increase in the number of participants since 2011. In December 2019, there were 1,195,405 aided individuals. By December 2020, that number had increased to 1,302,106 individuals, which represents an increase of 8.93% (106,701 individuals) (Figure 2). Overall, since 2011, the CalFresh program has seen an increase of 32.3% in the number of individuals receiving benefits. Detailed annual data can be found in Figure 8.

#### Medi-Cal

In December 2019, there were 2,992,029 individuals receiving Medi-Cal benefits. By December 2020, the number of individuals enrolled in Medi-Cal had increased to 3,230,584. This represents a 7.97% increase (238,555) in individuals served (Figure 2). Detailed annual data can be found in Figure 7.

# **Cal-Learn Program**

In 2020, DPSS served a monthly average of 541 Cal-Learn participants. This represents a 25% decrease from a monthly average of 717 participants served during Calendar Year 2019 (Figure 4).

# CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION, CHILD ABUSE REFERRALS, AND STAFF TRAINING

Amajor focus of DPSS is to ensure that all its employees are active participants in child abuse prevention. In 1987, the DPSS Training Academy implemented a comprehensive Child Abuse Prevention training program. The primary purpose of this training is to inform DPSS employees about the seriousness of the child abuse problem in Los Angeles County and the employees' mandated reporting responsibilities.

Since its inception, the Child Abuse Prevention training program has been delivered to DPSS public contact staff, including Social Workers, GAIN Services Workers, Eligibility Workers, clerical staff, and managers. To ensure that all DPSS public contact staff receive the training, the program is incorporated into the DPSS new employee orientation.

During the training, staff are informed of the types of child abuse, indicators of such abuse, provisions of the reporting law, and DPSS employees' reporting responsibilities and procedures. Staff also review and discuss materials related to the indicators of child abuse.

Violence between household members, which often endangers children, is emphasized in the training program. The Los Angeles County Domestic Violence Council provides Domestic Violence training to all DPSS public contact staff.

In 2020, DPSS made a total of 32 child abuse referrals to the Department of Children and Family Services. This represented a 21% decrease from the 53 referrals made in 2019 (Figure 3).

# Linkages

The Linkages Partnership is an interdepartmental service coordination partnership between the Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) and DPSS to address common barriers that limit parents' ability to parent and their ability to work. Linkages serves families by ensuring DCFS families who are not currently connected to DPSS services,

# Department of Public Social Services



but could be, are provided an expedited method to access needed services. Those families involved in both DCFS and DPSS maximize available services and resources, and engage in coordinated case planning to assist parents with creating a safe and stable home for their children while working toward economic self-sufficiency.

Los Angeles County's Linkages protocols are part of case work practice to enhance service delivery, strengthen families through economic self-sufficiency and focus on child safety.

- Family Preservation: Service coordination for CalWORKs families with a DCFS Family Preservation (FP) plan. DPSS expertise is integrated into DCFS' FP Multi-Disciplinary Case Planning Committee family meetings to provide GAIN services and include DCFS FP activities in participants' Welfare-to-Work plans.
- Family Reunification: Welfare-to-Work GAIN services provided to former CalWORKs participants who have a Family Reunification Plan in place with DCFS and who volunteer to participate.
- DCFS 5122 Screening Tool: Form used by DCFS staff to screen and refer families/individuals for potential eligibility to CalWORKs/General Relief benefits.
- Collocation of Linkages GAIN Services Workers at DCFS: Integration of CalWORKs expertise into DCFS' Child and Family Team (CFT) meetings and case consultations outside of CFT meetings, throughout the 19 DCFS Regional Offices.

Effective March 3, 2020, in collaboration with DCFS and County Counsel, DPSS implemented a protocol countywide to streamline urgent requests for information from DCFS and Law Enforcement to provide critical information, and facilitate the search for abducted or at-large/missing children.

Qualified members from each department/agency were identified and trained in the Multi-Disciplinary Personnel Team (MDT) process for sharing DPSS information. Due to confidentiality rules, only designated staff participate in the sharing of specified data elements that may lead to or assist in locating the missing child(ren). Designated DPSS Customer Service Center (CSC) Eligibility Workers (EWs), CSC Supervisors, collocated Linkages GAIN Services Workers (LGSWs), Linkages GAIN Services Supervisors (LGSS), Government Inquiry and Response (GIR) Section Designees, Managers and Program staff receive and respond to requests for client information from participating

agencies via the designated phone line or in writing. DPSS Linkages Program continues to work in coordination with DCFS to bring awareness of the protocol by sharing with staff and partners at DCFS and the Inter-Agency Council on Child Abuse and Neglect (ICAN) Child Abduction Task Force meetings.

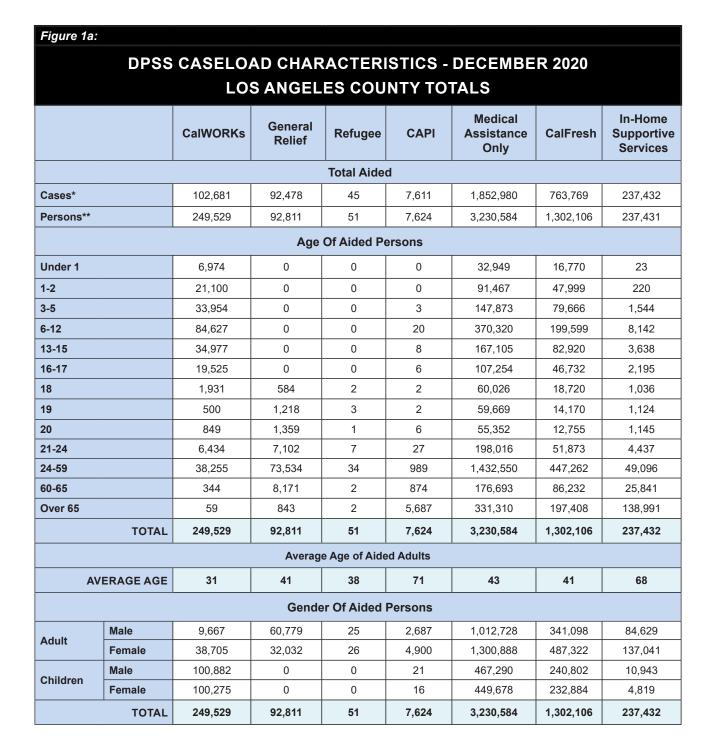
# **DPSS Technology Brief**

The evolution of DPSS health and human services is dependent on the leveraging and adoption of technological advancement, robotic process automation, analytics visualization, and other opportunities for innovation. Currently, DPSS has implemented leading technological solutions in CSC, mission-critical systems, core, and ancillary applications. DPSS has migrated its mission-critical core application (known as the LEADER Replacement System) to a FedRAMP-certified/HIPAA-compliance secure elastic Cloud ecosystem.

DPSS is preparing to migrate datasets and data schemas (from multiple federal, state, and local data sources) to such Cloud ecosystem. In collaboration with federal/state sponsors, local agencies, systems integrators, service providers and vendors, DPSS has led the effort to expand the LEADER Replacement System (LRS) to become the California Statewide Automated Welfare System (CalSAWS), which will unify health and human services agencies of all 58 counties under a single SAWS system by the end of Calendar Year 2023.

In the current and upcoming Fiscal Years, DPSS has implemented (shall implement) state-of-the-art Business Intelligence (BI), Analytics, Data Science, Enterprise Data Warehouse (EDW), Robotic Process Automation (RPA), and Machine Learning/Artificial Intelligence (ML/AI) technologies to build smart knowledgebases, machine learning capabilities, robotic/mechanical business process automation, and scalable data lakes and schemas to process large volumes of data ("Big Data"), connect complex relationships across heterogenous (diverse) datasets, render real-time visual analytics, and enable live feeds to social media platforms and other multimedia channels.





<sup>\*</sup>Cases are defined as an Assistance Unit of one or more person.

<sup>\*\*</sup> Persons are defined as being separate individuals.



#### Figure 1b: **DPSS CASELOAD CHARACTERISTICS - DECEMBER 2020** LOS ANGELES COUNTY TOTALS Medical In-Home General **CalWORKs** Refugee **CAPI Assistance** CalFresh **Supportive** Relief Only **Services Citizenship Status of Aided Persons** 87,256 Citizen 240,597 0 40 2,380,427 1,204,360 170,527 8,870 5,534 97,358 26,701 **Legal Immigrants** 51 7,188 380,444 50 6 0 363 461,787 227 206 Undocumented 0 39,997 12 15 33 7,926 161 **Immigrants** 249,529 **TOTAL** 92,811 51 7,624 3,230,584 1,302,106 237,431 **Primary Language of Aided Cases** Armenian 1,745 755 7 1,898 37,808 29,283 36,598 Cambodian 104 71 0 59 3,653 2,392 2,754 71 317 49,952 14,989 Chinese 112 1 13,891 8 97,033 **English** 68,090 87,172 865 1,163,274 530,210 Farsi 149 89 1 201 7,375 3,822 6,795 Korean 0 236 18,478 9,339 7,857 55 59 3 Russian 172 80 200 7,803 5,279 7,075 31,848 3,913 3,569 52,727 Spanish 20 538,674 158,625 **Tagalog** 17 27 0 59 4,495 1,819 4,112 Vietnamese 110 77 0 52 14,329 5,468 3,826 Other 279 164 5 155 7.139 3.641 3.666 **TOTAL** 102,681 92,478 45 7,611 1,852,980 763,769 237,432 **Ethnic Origin of Aided Persons** American Indian/ Alaskan 363 320 0 4 4,180 2,257 424 **Native** Asian 3,782 2,032 2 986 327,244 97,919 42,576 2 39,756 **Black** 52,719 32,092 70 277,610 222,983 Hispanic 134,227 23,411 22 3,356 1,737,435 566,281 76,538 Native Hawaiian/ Pacific 601 221 0 3 5,585 2,801 262 Islander White 21,455 19,311 20 2,600 436,485 216,100 73,037 26,887 9,705 2 267,387 116,703 0 Two or more races 386 Other 9,495 5,719 3 219 174,658 77,062 4,839

N/A = This data is not tracked by the Case Management, Information and Payrolling System.

92,811

249,529

**TOTAL** 





51

7,624

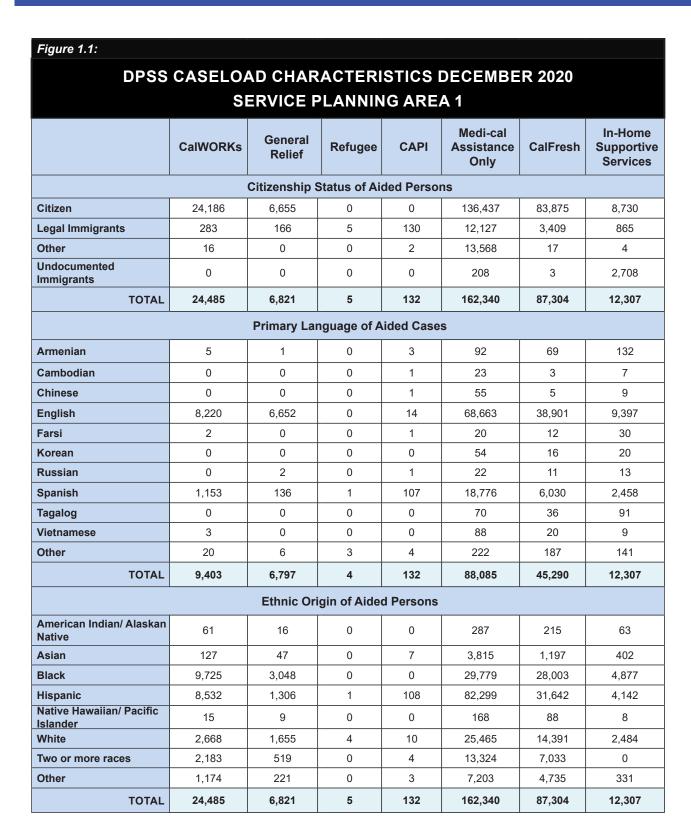
3,230,584

1,302,106

237,432







N/A = This data is not tracked by the Case Management, Information and Payrolling System.







Figure 1.2 DPSS	Figure 1.2  DPSS CASELOAD CHARACTERISTICS DECEMBER 2020  SERVICE PLANNING AREA 2											
	CalWORKs	General Relief	Refugee	CAPI	Medi-Cal Assistance Only	CalFresh	In-Home Supportive Services					
	CIT	IZENSHIP ST	ATUS OF A	IDED PER	SONS							
Citizen	29,988	9,892	0	20	465,704	215,957	50,917					
Legal Immigrants	4,364	1,148	19	2,544	88,725	28,143	8,902					
Other	4	1	0	162	94,678	49	126					
Undocumented Immigrants	0	5	0	10	1,626	51	7,274					
TOTAL	34,356	11,046	19	2,736	650,733	244,200	67,219					
PRIMARY LANGUAGE OF AIDED CASES												
Armenian	1,627	675	7	1,626	33,251	25,348	30,738					
Cambodian	0	0	0	1	78	31	55					
Chinese	0	0	0	3	510	108	172					
English	7,344	9,606	3	319	224,894	87,898	15,930					
Farsi	118	63	1	131	4,726	2,623	4,050					
Korean	3	4	0	16	2,045	641	788					
Russian	114	35	1	100	3,577	2,234	2,775					
Spanish	4,437	546	3	458	101,820	26,881	9,427					
Tagalog	5	6	0	11	1,188	461	1,257					
Vietnamese	6	4	0	4	1,682	529	442					
Other	81	21	0	60	2,089	1,037	1,585					
TOTAL	13,735	10,960	15	2,729	375,860	147,791	67,219					
	ı	ETHNIC ORIG	SIN OF AIDE	D PERSO	NS							
American Indian/ Alaskan Native	26	41	0	1	565	293	86					
Asian	545	260	0	106	47,347	13,474	5,254					
Black	2,368	1,540	0	7	22,649	14,019	2,047					
Hispanic	17,491	2,793	3	447	310,389	87,971	12,709					
Native Hawaiin/ Pacific Islander	27	9	0	0	402	175	13					
White	9,331	4,655	15	2,011	188,102	96,341	45,571					
Two or more races	3,426	1,110	1	57	46,296	18,355	0					
Other	1,142	638	0	107	34,983	13,572	1,539					
TOTAL	34,356	11,046	19	2,736	650,733	244,200	67,219					

**(** 

N/A = This data is not tracked by the Case Management, Information and Payrolling System.

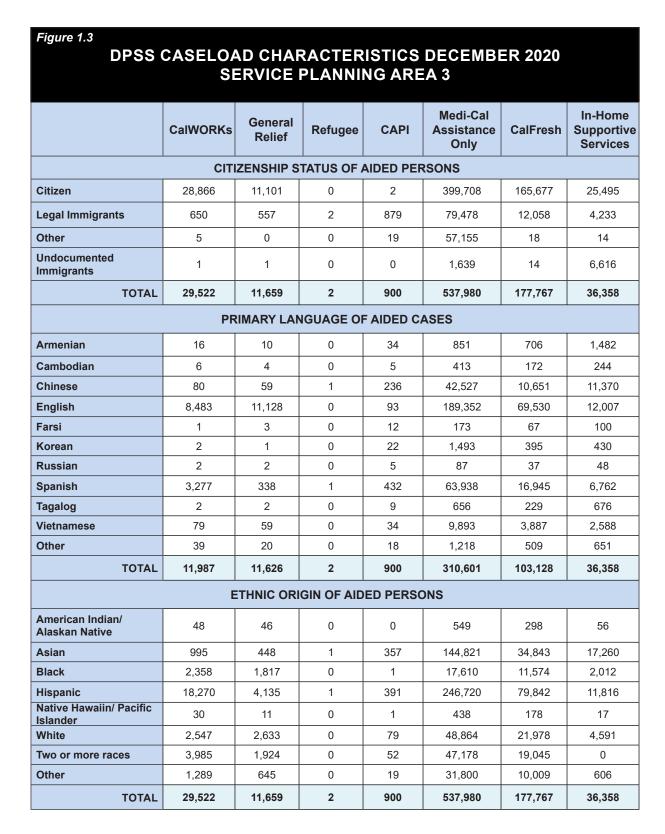


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N/A = This data is not tracked by the Case Management, Information and Payrolling System.



278 State of Child Abuse



395,556

162,526

1,490



Figure 1.4  DPSS CASELOAD CHARACTERISTICS DECEMBER 2020												
DPSS		RVICE P				R 2020						
	CalWORKs	General Relief	Refugee	CAPI	Medi-Cal Assistance Only	CalFresh	In-Home Supportive Services					
	CITI	ZENSHIP ST	ATUS OF AI	DED PERS	ONS							
Citizen	23,914	14,468	0	9	269,583	148,084	22,799					
Legal Immigrants	928	1,203	9	1,362	49,999	14,373	3,846					
Other	3	3	0	100	74,670	24	28					
Undocumented Immigrants	6	5	0	19	1,304	45	4,565					
TOTAL	24,851	15,679	9	1,490	395,556	162,526	31,238					
	PR	IMARY LANG	GUAGE OF	AIDED CAS	SES							
Armenian	95	64	0	215	3,348	2,971	3,702					
Cambodian	5	1	0	6	267	155	182					
Chinese	20	7	0	47	4,076	2,198	2,371					
English	5,473	14,550	4	179	143,002	66,924	8,085					
Farsi	8	4	0	15	345	159	314					
Korean	44	39	0	139	10,232	5,723	4,384					
Russian	48	26	2	81	3,024	2,262	3,026					
Spanish	4,983	889	3	762	80,630	26,370	7,858					
Tagalog	6	6	0	21	1,265	535	872					
Vietnamese	6	7	0	4	693	286	186					
Other	20	34	0	19	1,077	507	258					
TOTAL	10,708	15,627	9	1,488	247,959	108,090	31,238					
	Е	THNIC ORIG	IN OF AIDE	D PERSON	NS							
American Indian/ Alaskan Native	34	59	0	0	785	341	40					
Asian	611	454	1	273	51,124	19,898	9,186					
Black	2,383	4,439	0	9	22,977	17,590	2,370					
Hispanic	16,824	4,860	5	713	218,165	74,835	10,268					
Native Hawaiin/ Pacific Islander	14	17	0	1	233	85	11					
White	1,394	3,069	1	363	52,618	26,892	8,937					
Two or more races	2,854	1,825	0	106	30,856	13,226	0					
Other	737	956	2	25	18,798	9,659	426					

**(** 

N/A = This data is not tracked by the Case Management, Information and Payrolling System.

15,679

24,851

TOTAL





31,238





Figure 1.5													
DPSS	DPSS CASELOAD CHARACTERISTICS DECEMBER 2020												
	SE	RVICE P	LANNIN	G ARE	<b>4</b> 5								
	CalWORKs	General Relief	Refugee	САРІ	Medi-Cal Assistance Only	CalFresh	In-Home Supportive Services						
	CITI	ZENSHIP STA	ATUS OF AI	DED PERS	SONS								
Citizen	4,148	6,911	0	3	77,258	37,292	5,745						
Legal Immigrants	160	265	0	134	9,573	2,218	793						
Other	0	0	0	3	7,232	2	7						
Undocumented Immigrants	2	0	0	0	342	5	941						
TOTAL	4,310	7,176	0	140	94,405	39,517	7,486						
PRIMARY LANGUAGE OF AIDED CASES													
Armenian	0	0	0	1	38	19	41						
Cambodian	0	0	0	0	5	4	4						
Chinese	3	2	0	8	284	58	58						
English	1,587	7,030	0	48	56,799	26,110	3,353						
Farsi	13	12	0	32	1,815	850	2,118						
Korean	0	1	0	1	242	79	67						
Russian	6	11	0	8	843	631	1,057						
Spanish	203	72	0	29	6,938	1,682	582						
Tagalog	0	2	0	0	53	18	23						
Vietnamese	1	0	0	2	43	14	21						
Other	14	25	0	11	481	196	162						
TOTAL	1,827	7,155	0	140	67,541	29,661	7,486						
	E	THNIC ORIG	IN OF AIDE	D PERSON	NS								
American Indian/ Alaskan Native	20	20	0	0	375	128	13						
Asian	102	110	0	23	6,854	2,082	463						
Black	1,779	2,602	0	5	12,759	8,645	632						
Hispanic	1,016	689	0	28	23,323	6,779	933						
Native Hawaiin/ Pacific Islander	8	14	0	0	117	59	1						
White	663	2,471	0	63	32,650	14,249	5,153						
Two or more races	398	419	0	2	5,839	2,324	0						
Other	324	851	0	19	12,488	5,251	291						
TOTAL	4,310	7,176	0	140	94,405	39,517	7,486						

N/A = This data is not tracked by the Case Management, Information and Payrolling System.







Figure 1.6 DPSS CASELOAD CHARACTERISTICS DECEMBER 2020												
	CalWORKs	General Relief	Refugee	G AREA	Medi-Cal Assistance Only	CalFresh	In-Home Supportive Services					
	CITIZENSHIP STATUS OF AIDED PERSONS											
Citizen	66,013	15,280	0	2	356,372	229,639	21,897					
Legal Immigrants	1,065	884	12	745	48,479	14,171	2,399					
Other	5	0	0	40	99,396	40	9					
Undocumented Immigrants	2	1	0	4	956	21	6,095					
TOTAL	67,085	16,165	12	791	505,203	243,871	30,400					
PRIMARY LANGUAGE OF AIDED CASES												
Armenian	0	1	0	1	8	5	8					
Cambodian	0	1	0	1	41	21	37					
Chinese	1	1	0	2	99	35	34					
English	18,419	15,204	0	63	150,436	94,699	21,120					
Farsi	0	1	0	2	24	13	17					
Korean	0	5	0	23	1,036	854	701					
Russian	1	1	0	0	28	10	18					
Spanish	9,620	890	9	684	114,423	36,152	8,298					
Tagalog	0	0	0	2	56	20	43					
Vietnamese	0	1	0	1	40	17	19					
Other	18	19	2	12	354	370	105					
TOTAL	28,059	16,124	11	791	266,545	132,196	30,400					
	Е	THNIC ORIG	IN OF AIDE	D PERSON	NS .							
American Indian/ Alaskan Native	79	50	0	2	556	359	44					
Asian	141	98	0	35	5,009	2,662	1,015					
Black	22,391	9,162	1	25	88,247	82,721	17,415					
Hispanic	35,122	3,541	9	646	339,248	118,597	10,721					
Native Hawaiin/ Pacific Islander	135	27	0	0	695	440	50					
White	1,257	1,185	0	14	14,524	8,440	624					
Two or more races	5,868	1,238	1	56	39,122	19,241	0					
Other	2,092	864	1	13	17,802	11,411	531					
TOTAL	67,085	16,165	12	791	505,203	243,871	30,400					

N/A = This data is not tracked by the Case Management, Information and Payrolling System.









Figure 1.7													
DPSS	DPSS CASELOAD CHARACTERISTICS DECEMBER 2020 SERVICE PLANNING AREA 7												
	SE	RVICE P	LANNIN	G AREA	<b>A</b> 7								
	CalWORKs	General Relief	Refugee	САРІ	Medi-Cal Assistance Only	CalFresh	In-Home Supportive Services						
	CITI	ZENSHIP STA	ATUS OF AI	DED PERS	ONS								
Citizen	29,596	3,468	0	3	320,528	141,230	15,432						
Legal Immigrants	683	373	1	852	46,201	11,551	3,359						
Other	11	1	0	19	61,224	49	11						
Undocumented Immigrants	0	0	0	0	764	8	6,408						
TOTAL	30,290	3,842	1	874	428,717	152,838	25,210						
PRIMARY LANGUAGE OF AIDED CASES													
Armenian	2	4	0	16	161	146	440						
Cambodian	5	9	0	11	490	270	335						
Chinese	4	0	0	15	1,528	646	731						
English	7,921	3,362	0	46	131,713	50,690	9,914						
Farsi	1	1	0	1	31	15	15						
Korean	4	2	0	20	1,683	755	647						
Russian	1	0	0	1	41	14	29						
Spanish	4,454	426	1	745	88,276	26,584	12,233						
Tagalog	1	4	0	2	456	174	374						
Vietnamese	2	1	0	3	457	197	152						
Other	35	8	0	13	717	326	340						
TOTAL	12,430	3,817	1	873	225,553	79,817	25,210						
	E	THNIC ORIG	IN OF AIDE	D PERSON	IS								
American Indian / Alaskan Native	26	11	0	0	384	201	49						
Asian	241	85	0	71	24,239	7,490	3,176						
Black	1,857	370	0	2	10,468	7,676	1,218						
Hispanic	21,014	1,986	1	705	299,610	97,124	18,125						
Native Hawaiin/ Pacific Islander	65	6	0	0	695	313	50						
White	1,795	592	0	28	28,295	13,355	2,218						
Two or more races	4,366	638	0	55	46,920	19,826	0						
Other	926	154	0	13	18,106	6,853	374						
TOTAL	30,290	3,842	1	874	428,717	152,838	25,210						

N/A = This data is not tracked by the Case Management, Information and Payrolling System.







Figure 1.8  DPSS CASELOAD CHARACTERISTICS DECEMBER 2020												
	CalWORKs	General Relief	Refugee	G ARE	Medi-Cal Assistance Only	CalFresh	In-Home Supportive Services					
	CITI	ZENSHIP STA	ATUS OF AI	DED PER	SONS		l					
Citizen	33,884	19,480	0	1	354,823	182,600	19,513					
Legal Immigrants	737	938	3	542	45,862	11,435	2,304					
Other	6	1	0	18	53,864	28	7					
Undocumented Immigrants	1	3	0	0	1,087	14	5,390					
TOTAL	34,628	20,422	3	561	455,636	194,077	27,214					
PRIMARY LANGUAGE OF AIDED CASES												
Armenian	0	0	0	2	59	19	55					
Cambodian	88	56	0	34	2,336	1,736	1,890					
Chinese	4	2	0	5	873	190	244					
English	10,642	19,639	1	103	198,410	95,457	17,227					
Farsi	6	5	0	7	241	83	151					
Korean	2	7	0	15	1,693	876	820					
Russian	0	3	0	4	181	80	109					
Spanish	3,721	616	2	352	63,872	17,981	5,109					
Tagalog	3	7	0	14	751	346	776					
Vietnamese	13	5	0	4	1,433	518	409					
Other	52	31	0	18	981	509	424					
TOTAL	14,531	20,371	3	558	270,830	117,795	27,214					
	E	THNIC ORIG	IN OF AIDE	D PERSO	NS							
American Indian/ Alaskan Native	69	77	0	1	679	422	73					
Asian	1,020	530	0	114	44,035	16,273	5,820					
Black	9,856	9,114	1	21	73,120	52,755	9,185					
Hispanic	15,958	4,101	2	318	217,675	69,490	7,824					
Native Hawaiin/ Pacific Islander	307	128	0	1	2,837	1,463	112					
White	1,800	3,050	0	32	45,967	20,454	3,459					
Two or more races	3,807	2,032	0	54	37,846	17,648	0					
Other	1,811	1,390	0	20	33,477	15,572	741					
TOTAL	34,628	20,422	3	561	455,636	194,077	27,214					

N/A = This data is not tracked by the Case Management, Information and Payrolling System.









Figure 1.9	CACELOA	D CHAD	ACTEDI	CTICC	DECEMBE	-D 2020					
DP55		E PLANN			DECEMBE KNOWN*	ER 2020					
	CalWORKs	General Relief	Refugee	САРІ	Medical Assistance Only	CalFresh	In-Home Supportive Services				
	(	Citizenship S	tatus of Aic	ded Perso	ns						
Citizen	2	1	0	0	14	6	0				
Legal Immigrants	0	0	0	0	0	0	0				
Other	0	0	0	0	0	0	0				
Undocumented Immigrants	0	0	0	0	0	0	0				
TOTAL	2	1	0	0	14	6	0				
Primary Language of Aided Cases											
Armenian	0	0	0	0	0	0	0				
Cambodian	0	0	0	0	0	0	0				
Chinese	0	0	0	0	0	0	0				
English	1	1	0	0	5	1	0				
Farsi	0	0	0	0	0	0	0				
Korean	0	0	0	0	0	0	0				
Russian	0	0	0	0	0	0	0				
Spanish	0	0	0	0	1	0	0				
Tagalog	0	0	0	0	0	0	0				
Vietnamese	0	0	0	0	0	0	0				
Other	0	0	0	0	0	0	0				
TOTAL	1	1	0	0	6	1	0				
		Ethnic Orig	gin of Aideo	d Persons							
American Indian/ Alaskan Native	0	0	0	0	0	0	0				
Asian	0	0	0	0	0	0	0				
Black	2	0	0	0	1	0	0				
Hispanic	0	0	0	0	6	1	0				
Native Hawaiin/ Pacific Islander	0	0	0	0	0	0	0				
White	0	1	0	0	0	0	0				
Two or more races	0	0	0	0	6	5	0				
Other	0	0	0	0	1	0	0				
TOTAL	2	1	0	0	14	6	0				

<sup>\*</sup> Unknown counts represent cases with addresses that cannot be geocoded for various reasons such as P.O. Box addresses, incomplete addresses, etc.





N/A = This data is not tracked by the Case Management, Information and Payrolling System.



Figure 2 INDIVIDUALS		AID PROGRAM TO DECEMBER		R 2020
PROGRAM	DEC. 2019	DEC. 2020	CHANGE	% CHANGE
CalWORKs	267,185	249,529	-17,656	-6.61%
General Relief	83,350	92,811	9,461	11.35%
CAPI	7,626	7,624	-2	-0.03%
Refugee	137	51	-86	-62.77%
Medi-Cal Assistance Only	2,992,029	3,230,584	238,555	7.97%
CalFresh	1,195,405	1,302,106	106,701	8.93%
IHSS	230,101	237,431	7,330	3.19%
TOTAL ALL PROGRAMS*	3,485,057	3,747,145	262,088	7.52%

<sup>\*</sup> This total represents an unduplicated count of individuals across all programs since some individuals are aided in more than one program.

Figure 3	CHILD ABUSE REFERRALS  JANUARY 2008 - DECEMBER 2020														
MONTH	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	19/20 change	19/20 % change
Jan.	23	7	11	5	19	14	27	28	16	22	8	4	5	1	25%
Feb.	14	5	9	9	17	28	15	24	12	15	5	6	4	-2	-33%
Mar.	12	7	11	3	26	8	27	17	18	19	7	14	7	-7	-50%
Apr.	11	13	7	14	25	17	26	23	8	12	11	5	0	-5	-100%
May	17	13	3	11	24	16	28	13	14	15	4	2	3	1	50%
June	14	11	5	16	24	21	28	15	24	13	6	1	4	3	300%
July	9	14	10	11	23	35	25	34	15	14	4	3	0	-3	-100%
Aug.	12	8	8	12	15	27	28	42	38	9	6	0	0	0	0%
Sept.	7	6	4	5	12	24	33	49	29	11	15	6	2	-4	-67%
Oct.	20	9	14	6	13	30	35	31	21	9	3	7	2	-5	-71%
Nov.	3	13	6	8	15	29	27	21	19	11	3	3	2	-1	-33%
Dec.	4	12	3	13	9	17	10	17	18	2	2	2	3	1	50%
TOTAL	146	118	91	113	222	266	309	314	232	152	74	53	32	-21	0

Some of the referrals may have been for the same children.

Referral counts are from two sources:

- DPSS employees observing incidents which indicate abuse/neglect and making referrals to the Departmental of Children and Family Services
- Data collated from reports received from DPSS Welfare Fraud Prevention & Investigation Section.







#### Department of Public Social Services

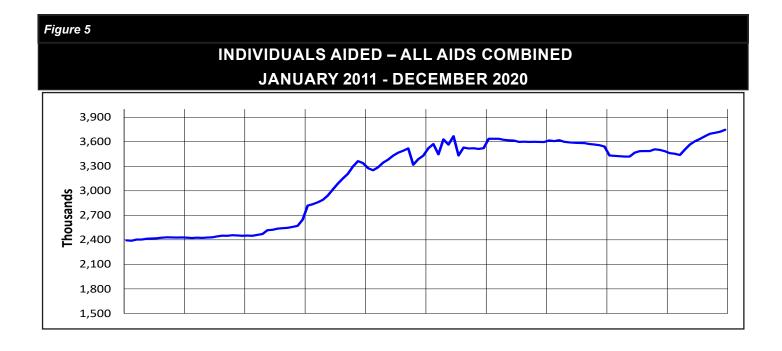
Figure 4														
			C	AL-LE	ARN P	ARTIC	IPAN'	TS SE	RVED					
				JANU	ARY 20	008 - D	ECEN	IBER 2	2020					
MONTH	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	19/18 CHANGE	19/18 % CHANGE
Jan.	2,735	3,064	2,923	2,270	2,104	1,931	1,640	1,279	1,093	1,000	773	637	-136	-18%
Feb.	2,832	3,109	2,948	2,169	2,125	1,893	1,574	1,386	1,068	987	766	621	-145	-19%
Mar.	2,891	3,134	2,912	2,431	2,100	1,929	1,576	1,300	1,087	969	755	631	-124	-16%
Apr.	2,920	3,200	2,934	2,471	2,114	1,947	1,450	1,220	1,085	945	752	606	-146	-19%
May	2,982	3,235	2,741	2,370	1,851	1,996	1,524	1,264	1,090	957	761	585	-176	-23%
June	2,953	3,149	2,350	2,382	2,158	1,961	1,571	1,325	1,105	949	750	596	-154	-21%
July	2,870	2,932	2,115	2,211	2,111	1,862	1,456	1,281	1,031	897	723	553	-170	-24%
Aug.	2,862	2,960	1,836	2,181	2,110	1,785	1,384	1,281	1,003	850	696	513	-183	-26%
Sept.	2,888	2,992	2,134	2,182	2,019	1,826	1,377	1,200	974	812	691	491	-200	-29%
Oct.	3,009	3,030	2,057	2,265	2,017	1,726	1,400	1,167	1,003	820	655	463	-192	-29%
Nov.	3,077	3,014	2,208	2,167	1,924	1,681	1,301	1,105	966	825	653	411	-242	-37%
Dec.	3,074	2,991	2,214	2,192	1,966	1,707	1,341	1,106	980	787	634	382	-252	-40%
AVERAGE	2,924	3,068	2,448	2,274	2,050	1,854	1,466	1,243	1,040	900	717	541	-177	-25%

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Month	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Jan.	2,394,585	2,426,501	2,453,083	2,819,136	3,276,776	3,521,223	3,636,266	3,616,846	3,431,417	3,461,088
Feb.	2,389,716	2,422,909	2,450,013	2,836,009	3,251,645	3,571,953	3,636,166	3,608,334	3,427,569	3,453,563
Mar.	2,403,761	2,426,841	2,461,628	2,859,833	3,287,979	3,445,798	3,637,284	3,619,281	3,423,885	3,437,197
Apr.	2,403,859	2,423,481	2,470,580	2,889,876	3,343,995	3,629,884	3,623,256	3,600,035	3,419,158	3,504,442
May	2,413,553	2,427,711	2,519,023	2,941,694	3,382,329	3,565,747	3,617,792	3,592,637	3,419,183	3,566,422
June	2,416,384	2,431,477	2,523,361	3,016,511	3,430,119	3,668,179	3,615,427	3,587,662	3,466,474	3,607,224
July	2,420,344	2,442,987	2,536,910	3,088,345	3,466,141	3,432,513	3,598,312	3,585,714	3,485,440	3,634,783
Aug.	2,426,295	2,451,696	2,542,506	3,151,339	3,490,545	3,528,925	3,600,783	3,584,325	3,486,715	3,667,895
Sep.	2,431,316	2,450,230	2,546,656	3,208,954	3,519,627	3,517,353	3,598,481	3,572,253	3,486,715	3,697,871
Oct.	2,429,646	2,457,086	2,558,888	3,296,854	3,318,533	3,520,528	3,599,094	3,566,306	3,507,418	3,709,981
Nov.	2,428,279	2,453,757	2,571,969	3,363,249	3,387,795	3,512,738	3,598,421	3,557,259	3,500,145	3,721,893
Dec.	2,429,214	2,450,333	2,647,528	3,339,390	3,430,557	3,521,509	3,597,185	3,541,548	3,485,057	3,747,145

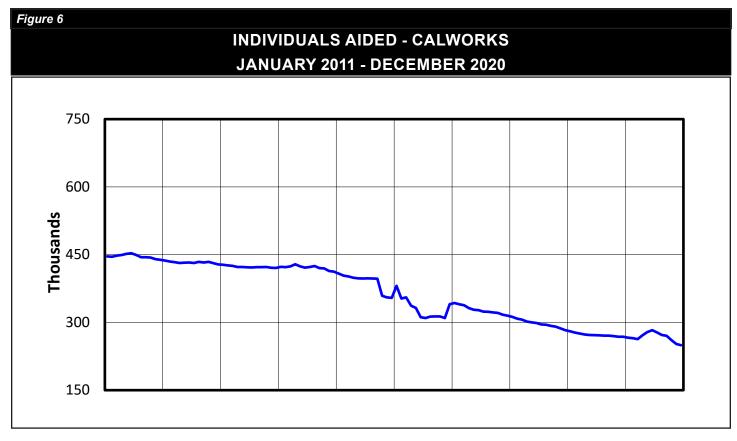
<sup>\*2015 4</sup>th quarter data submitted after the LRS implementation.







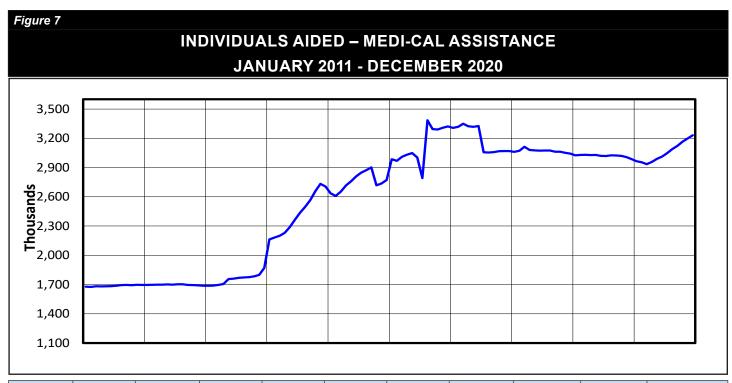
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Month	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Jan.	445,949	436,846	427,728	422,896	408,172	380,972	342,943	312,025	280,422	266,093
Feb.	445,154	434,536	426,054	422,249	403,662	352,957	340,075	308,384	277,577	264,923
Mar.	447,929	433,157	425,255	424,066	401,779	355,241	338,187	306,177	275,258	262,926
Apr.	449,363	431,619	422,502	428,680	399,015	336,865	331,598	301,758	273,044	271,413
May	451,770	432,124	422,504	423,974	397,553	332,131	328,216	300,277	272,303	278,521
June	453,164	432,684	421,889	421,206	397,045	311,555	326,948	298,686	271,800	282,666
July	449,303	431,612	421,707	422,817	397,353	309,655	323,778	295,455	271,359	277,849
Aug.	444,096	434,159	422,294	424,883	397,157	313,020	323,419	294,988	270,799	272,136
Sep.	444,308	432,602	422,137	420,169	396,945	313,272	322,207	292,344	270,579	270,431
Oct.	443,415	434,071	422,511	419,533	359,021	313,368	321,178	290,629	269,763	260,956
Nov.	440,023	431,092	420,873	413,804	355,275	309,553	317,225	286,579	268,354	252,437
Dec.	438,715	428,294	420,513	412,365	354,376	339,974	315,071	282,814	268,167	249,529

<sup>\*2015 4</sup>th quarter data submitted after the LRS implementation.





Month	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Jan.	1,677,657	1,695,530	1,686,728	2,162,087	2,635,084	2,985,013	3,307,201	3,060,958	3,024,386	2,964,021
Feb.	1,674,595	1,696,763	1,688,211	2,181,648	2,609,119	2,968,570	3,316,921	3,071,528	3,029,667	2,953,712
Mar.	1,681,467	1,698,376	1,695,285	2,200,120	2,652,143	3,010,138	3,349,365	3,113,170	3,029,862	2,934,904
Apr.	1,680,359	1,698,100	1,704,905	2,229,067	2,716,127	3,031,869	3,322,548	3,079,837	3,027,123	2,957,554
May	1,681,497	1,700,809	1,755,996	2,288,191	2,758,728	3,048,192	3,317,709	3,075,916	3,029,639	2,988,670
June	1,683,049	1,697,665	1,759,649	2,364,689	2,809,686	3,003,444	3,325,148	3,072,660	3,020,011	3,012,747
July	1,687,322	1,701,787	1,768,550	2,436,427	2,847,792	2,792,108	3,057,055	3,073,923	3,018,021	3,048,200
Aug.	1,694,711	1,701,649	1,773,011	2,496,469	2,872,428	3,384,397	3,053,283	3,074,912	3,025,332	3,089,904
Sep.	1,696,079	1,695,450	1,775,355	2,564,799	2,901,798	3,294,583	3,058,186	3,061,530	3,023,641	3,122,441
Oct.	1,693,154	1,693,886	1,783,230	2,657,203	2,716,683	3,289,591	3,068,041	3,061,971	3,019,046	3,164,889
Nov.	1,696,764	1,691,766	1,797,981	2,732,673	2,736,803	3,307,710	3,068,299	3,050,818	3,006,706	3,197,993
Dec.	1,695,805	1,686,556	1,870,380	2,705,644	2,771,706	3,321,456	3,069,071	3,042,822	2,986,310	3,230,584

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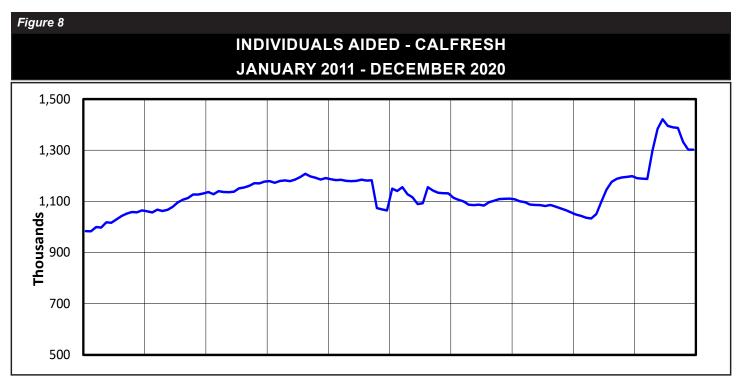




<sup>\*2015 4</sup>th quarter data submitted after the LRS implementation.



#### Department of Public Social Services



Month	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Jan.	983,972	1,061,099	1,136,598	1,179,471	1,186,689	1,150,095	1,114,113	1,108,414	1,048,882	1,190,826
Feb.	982,952	1,056,530	1,128,269	1,172,986	1,183,204	1,140,474	1,106,457	1,100,344	1,043,319	1,188,862
Mar.	999,836	1,067,474	1,140,185	1,179,917	1,184,511	1,155,876	1,099,615	1,096,854	1,035,942	1,188,025
Apr.	997,431	1,062,493	1,136,567	1,181,939	1,180,608	1,128,110	1,087,449	1,087,679	1,033,153	1,298,092
May	1,017,987	1,067,010	1,135,966	1,179,271	1,178,959	1,115,784	1,085,333	1,086,290	1,050,176	1,383,858
June	1,016,668	1,078,877	1,137,764	1,185,357	1,180,615	1,089,288	1,087,512	1,085,736	1,099,911	1,421,334
July	1,029,907	1,095,676	1,150,909	1,195,491	1,185,244	1,092,816	1,083,889	1,081,974	1,145,884	1,395,523
Aug.	1,042,754	1,106,581	1,154,695	1,208,242	1,181,789	1,155,558	1,096,976	1,086,361	1,176,222	1,389,651
Sep.	1,052,181	1,112,889	1,161,054	1,197,541	1,182,726	1,142,246	1,102,956	1,079,915	1,188,384	1,387,377
Oct.	1,058,355	1,127,190	1,171,438	1,192,513	1,073,836	1,133,735	1,109,216	1,072,928	1,193,681	1,332,441
Nov.	1,057,476	1,126,961	1,170,317	1,185,306	1,068,797	1,132,088	1,110,217	1,066,019	1,195,875	1,302,395
Dec.	1,064,647	1,130,714	1,177,740	1,191,285	1,064,892	1,131,596	1,110,758	1,057,193	1,198,751	1,302,106

<sup>\*2015 4</sup>th quarter data submitted after the LRS implementation.







#### **GLOSSARY OF TERMS**

**CalFresh**: Is the cornerstone of the federal food assistance program. The purpose of this program is to promote and safeguard the health and well-being of low-income households by raising their levels of nutrition and increasing their food purchasing power.

California Work Opportunity And Responsibility to Kids (CalWORKs): Provides temporary financial assistance, no-cost Medi-Cal, and employment-focused services to families with minor children who may or may not have income, and their property limit is below State maximum limits for their family size. Families that apply and qualify for ongoing assistance receive money each month to help pay for housing, food and other necessary expenses.

In addition, the family must meet one of the following deprivations:

- Either parent is deceased
- Either parent is physically or mentally incapacitated
- Either parent is continually absent from the home in which the child is living
- When both parents are in the home, the Principal Wage Earner worked less than 100 hours in the four-week period before applying for CalWORKs cash aid.

Since January 1, 1998, the CalWORKs program has continued to transition participants from Welfare-to-Work. To continue achieving the goal of Welfare Reform, DPSS has developed programs which help participants achieve self-sufficiency in a time-limited welfare environment. DPSS' Welfare-to-Work programs currently provide an array of work supports and barrier removal services.

**Cal-Learn:** Is a mandatory program for CalWORKs participants who are under 19 years of age, are pregnant or parenting, and have not yet completed their high school education. The Cal-Learn program is designed to address long-term welfare dependency by encouraging and assisting teen parents on the CalWORKs program to remain in or return to school. Cal-Learn focuses on providing these youth with the following supportive services needed to complete their high school education or equivalent:

- Intensive case management services
- Payments for child care, transportation, and school expenses
- \$100 bonuses up to four times a year for satisfactory school progress
- \$500 one-time-only bonus for receiving a high school

diploma or its equivalent.

Cash Assistance Program for Immigrants (CAPI): Provides cash to certain aged, blind, and disabled legal non-citizens ineligible for Supplemental Security Income/State Supplemental Payment (SSI/SSP) due to their immigration status. CAPI participants may be eligible for Medi-Cal, In-Home Supportive Services (IHSS), and/or CalFresh benefits. Individuals requesting such benefits must file an appropriate application for each program.

Department of Public Social Services (DPSS): Administers programs that provide services to individuals and families in need. These programs are designed to both alleviate hardship and promote family health, personal responsibility, and economic independence. Most DPSS programs are mandated by Federal and State laws.

Greater Avenues For Independence (GAIN) / General Relief Opportunities for Work (GROW): These programs provide employment-related services to CalWORKs or GR participants to help them find employment, stay employed, and move on to higher paying jobs, which will ultimately lead to self-sufficiency and independence.

**General Relief (GR):** Is a County-funded program that provides cash aid to indigent adults who are ineligible for Federal or State programs.

**In-Home Supportive Services (IHSS):** Enables low-income aged, blind, and/or disabled individuals to remain safely in their own homes by paying eligible providers to provide personal care, domestic, and other services.

**LEADER Replacement System (LRS):** Is the automated system which provides the primary case management for the programs administered by DPSS.

**Medi-Cal**: Provides comprehensive medical benefits to low-income families and individuals. Depending on their income and resource levels, individuals and families may be eligible for a no-cost or a share-of-cost Medi-Cal Program.

Refugee Employment Program (REP): REP provides employment-related services, case management, and training to refugees during their first five years in the United States and to asylees during their first five years they are granted asylum. REP is administered by DPSS.



#### Department of Public Social Services

Refugee Resettlement Program (RRP): Is made up of many program partners at the Federal, State, County, and community levels. Typically, refugees are eligible for the same assistance programs as citizens including CalWORKs, CalFresh, Medi-Cal, SSI/SSP, and General Relief. In addition, single adults or couples without children who are not eligible for other welfare assistance may receive Refugee Cash Assistance (RCA). Vital to the success of the California Refugee Program are the contributions made by Mutual Assistance Associations, and Community Based Organizations (CBOs) that provide culturally and linguistically appropriate services.









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# LOS ANGELES COUNTY COMMUNITY CHILD ABUSE COUNCILS

#### **OVERVIEW**

The Los Angeles County Child Abuse Prevention Councils (LAC-CAPCs) consist of 12 community-based councils throughout Los Angeles County. The mission of the Councils is to reduce the incidence of child abuse and neglect and educate the public about child abuse and family violence issues (<a href="www.lachildabusecouncils.org">www.lachildabusecouncils.org</a>).

The membership of the Councils consists of child abuse prevention advocates, professionals working in the fields of child welfare, education, law enforcement, health, and mental health, as well as parents and anyone concerned about the issues surrounding child abuse and family violence.

In Fiscal Year (FY) 2020-2021, the Children's Bureau of Southern California (www.all4kids.org) continued to support the Department of Children and Family Services' (DCFS) Los Angeles County Child Abuse Prevention Councils Coordination Services Grant (\$100,000 each year from 2015-2021). Children's Bureau provided technical assistance and administrative oversight to the 12 Child Abuse Prevention Councils with the Council Coordinator bringing all Chair Members together monthly to align the joint service activities of the group and meet collective goals. Furthermore, the Council Coordinator interfaced with several ICAN committees on a regular basis (Child Death Review, Child & Adolescent Suicide Review, and Operations) to cross-share information and provide a community-based perspective with regard to child abuse prevention.

#### WHO ARE THE COUNCILS?

#### Geographically Based Councils

- AFFIRM AV Antelope Valley Child Abuse Prevention Council (formerly Yes2Kids)
- Eastside Child Abuse Prevention Council (El Monte)
- End Abuse Long Beach
- Foothill Child Abuse and Domestic Violence Prevention Council
- Council for Child Abuse Prevention Serving the San Fernando and Santa Clarita Valleys (SPA 2)
- San Gabriel Valley Child Abuse Prevention Council





- Service Planning Area 7 Child Abuse Council
- Westside Anti-Violence Authority (WAVA)

#### Population Specific/Countywide Councils

- Advocacy Council for Abused Deaf Children
- Asian and Pacific Islander Children, Youth and Family Council
- **LGBT Child Abuse Prevention Council**
- Los Angeles County Family, Children, Community Advisory Council (African-American Council)

#### The Los Angeles Child Abuse Prevention Councils are involved in the following joint projects:

- The Blue Ribbon Child Abuse Prevention Campaign (held in April for Child Abuse Prevention and Awareness Month);
- Publication of The Children's Advocate Newsletter;
- The Report Card Insert Project;
- Establishment and Maintenance of the Los Angeles County Child Abuse Prevention Council website;
- Training and Technical Assistance to the Community Relating to Child Abuse and Family Violence Issues;
- Monthly Meetings of the Council Chairs; and
- Special Projects for Individual Councils.

#### FISCAL YEAR 2020-2021 SPECIAL PROJECTS

Between December 2020 and May 2021, each of the Child Abuse Prevention Councils prepared and presented their Annual Project Applications to both their peers and DCFS. Each presentation illustrated how the Council intended to use their allotted funds to support child abuse prevention activities within their respective communities and/or for their target populations. The types of activities varied by Council and included many creative, resourceful, and impactful primary prevention projects.

#### Examples of past special projects include:

State of Child Abuse

- Mandated Reporter Trainings for the Community;
- Caregiver workshops: "Grandparents Raising Grandchildren";
- Monthly trainings to service providers (Continuing Education Units often available) on topics such as Domestic Violence and Family Law Basics & Understanding Human Trafficking;
- Understanding & Combating Institutional Racism in Child Welfare;
- Transformational Leadership Development of Adolescents and Young Adults; and
- Cultural Awareness and Child Protective Services.

In FY 2020-2021, the Councils each had \$4,450 to spend on their special projects and most were implemented in April during Child Abuse Awareness Month. The following illustrates a brief description of each Councils' activities during the year; however, most are implemented during the months of March and April.



#### SUCCESS STORIES

In the 2020-21 contract year, 100% of the Councils self-reported they were successful in completing their projects and met their identified goals within their Annual Project Applications. The following are a sample of success stories shared by the Councils which provide a view of their work and accomplishments.

#### Advocacy Council for Abused Deaf Children (ACADC)

On June 21, 2021, the ACADC held a virtual training event for Deaf and Hard of Hearing (HoH) clinicians to help educate the group on how to identify signs of child abuse in a virtual setting. The event was hosted on Zoom with Amanda G. Somdal, a Deaf licensed clinical social worker with decades of experience in the field. Within the webinar, participants were engaged and received handouts to complement the presentation. The ACADC received positive feedback from participants and plan to have future events of similar nature for clinicians.

#### Asian and Pacific Islander Children, Youth and Family Council (API-CYFC)

Starting in the fall, the API-CYFC considered several projects, and with public safety in mind, the member agencies unanimously voted for an outdoor family portrait project to provide a safe, positive, and meaningful activity for our countywide families experiencing significant challenges throughout the pandemic. From Winter 2020 to Spring 2021, the API-CYFC had continuous communication with member organizations and Las Fotos (the vendor) to plan an outdoor event with public health information and Coronavirus Disease mandates in mind. API-CYFC also received feedback from families to gauge their comfort level with participating in the event. In order to accommodate for social distancing and quality portraits, the Council staggered appointment times and increased the session time for each family.

Throughout the year, API-CYFC member agencies increased engagement and cross-learning with other partner organizations and with the larger API-CYF Council, as well as enhanced communication and coordination skills in implementing this project. API-CYFC wanted to support other nonprofits and expand network capacity through a new partnership with Las Fotos Project. API-CYFC and Las Fotos met several times throughout the course of the project to navigate logistics (ideal dates, meeting county/city safety guidelines, locations, accommodations for families, session sign-up processes) which solidified a wonderful new partnership.

#### Assisting Families to Find Information and Resources Mindfully (AFFIRM) -

#### **Antelope Valley Child Abuse Prevention Council**

The AFFIRM Council partnered with Pueblo y Salud Palmdale to work on a spoken word project for Fall 2021. As a result, the Antelope Valley Union High School District identified four schools, allowing students to receive spoken word training (also known as "Poetry Slam"), and then host an event to highlight students' creations in 2022. The focus of this project was substance abuse prevention for teens and adults. As many are aware, substance abuse adversely affects the well-being of all children when parents/youth are using mind altering substances to numb pain and try to forget about their troubles.

Additionally, AFFIRM AV chose to take part in a shoe giveaway project for children in need. The Council was provided a list from four different elementary schools (in areas of highest need), and each school identified students who would receive the shoes. AFFIRM AV was given a list of sizes and distributed shoes to students who were in-person at the school site. The students reacted by jumping up and down with joy. AFFIRM AV also donated approximately one hundred pairs of kid shoes to the local domestic violence shelter, which was also in great need.

Another successful project held by the Council in 2020-21 was "Stand for Kids." Council members, community members and local agencies held signs of positive messaging near freeway off ramps in the AV, in hopes of uplifting parents who are commuting home from work. The following agencies participated: Strength Based Community Change (SBCC), Lancaster and Palmdale Best Start, The Neighborhood Action Councils of Antelope Valley, Children's Bureau, and the Bikers Against Child Abuse AV Chapter as well as the community at large. AFFIRM AV hosted the "Stand for Kids" efforts in Palmdale and Lancaster as a kick-off for child abuse awareness month in April. It was wonderful to see so much support from different partners and the community members.

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#### **End Abuse Long Beach (EALB)**

Starting in April of 2020, the EALB Council pivoted from in-person trainings to a virtual format (Zoom) to comply with local health orders and to ensure members' safety while maintaining our consistency and fulfilling our mission. This year EALB held 11 trainings, including a special Child Abuse Prevention month training and awards ceremony in November - each time with 35-50 people joining. The group was also able to continue to offer CEUs to members and provide a space for networking prior to meetings. EALB offered CEU evaluations, the universal survey and other feedback options via our website and in the chat sessions of the meetings. In addition, the Council collaborated on two special joint training events with Jewish Family and Children's Service and the Community Roundtable. Dr Beliz from the LA County Department of Mental Health Emergency Outreach and Triage Division School Threat Assessment and Response Team provided a training on de-escalation strategies and another on School Threat Assessment (each 3 hours with 50-75 participants).

Despite the pandemic and changing health orders, the Council achieved the goal of hosting 11 monthly training events virtually on topics that aimed to address all 5 Protective Factors, as well as ensuring the topics were timely and current. Some of the training topics included: Intentional Program Engagement and Retention of Fathers; Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children (CSEC) Prevention Education; Collective Impact During a Pandemic; Addressing the needs of Latinx undocumented immigrants impacted by COVID-19; Immigration Enforcement; Tips to enhance telehealth encounters; Grief & Loss Strategies during COVID-19; Understanding and Navigating the Child Welfare System; and Domestic Violence and Child Abuse During COVID-19.

By offering a monthly forum for networking, resource sharing and shared learning, EALB has been able to maintain connectivity in the community. With LAC-CAPC support, the Council was pleased to be an inaugural partner in the Long Beach Community Internship Project (LBCIP) through Cal State University for the Spring and Summer 2021 which allowed the first EALB interns to come aboard. COVID-19 has changed the way the Council operates but has also afforded opportunities to expand membership and participation since the trainings are virtual and travel and proximity are no longer a factor. The Council is currently seeking feedback from members and guests to help inform re-opening strategies. Consistency and training content has proven to be the greatest success of EALB both pre-pandemic and during these extraordinary times.

#### LAC-Family, Children, Community Advisory Council (African American Council)

Due to the COVID-19 Pandemic, the LAC-FCCAC agreed to continue a low contact engagement activity of providing books for babies & new moms/families, provide support to Elevate Your GAME for students to be mentored virtually, and conduct one training via Zoom. This year LAC-FCCAC also continued to provide emotional support to members and community partners. Optimistic attitudes and prayers kept everybody fully functioning.

Originally, LAC-FCCAC's goal was to distribute 200 children's books on African American historical figures. However, the group transitioned and decided instead to provide books to new moms from the Black Infant Health Program in LA County. The purpose of the book distribution was to encourage new moms and family members to read to their babies as soon as possible. This reading will encourage bonding and the beginning of language skills for the babies. With additional grant funds, the LAC-FCCAC was able to buy 350 books through their long-standing partnership with Eso Won Bookstore in Leimert Park and their community partnership programs (Black Infant Health Pasadena and Antelope Valley, and The Children's Collective Inc.).

Additionally, LAC-FCCAC conducted a training on Financial Literacy as a Strength of African American Families with speaker de Winter Stewart, CFP, CLTC, MBA, Financial Advisor at Northwestern Mutual Wealth Management Company. Mr. Stewart was calm, compassionate, and comprehensive. The evaluations from the training indicated 100% satisfaction with the presentation.

Furthermore, LAC-FCCAC continued to support Elevate Your GAME Mentoring through music and videos as a learning tool for adolescents. Due to COVID-19 restrictions, none of the students were able to participate in any internships, so Elevate Your GAME conducted the internships via Zoom and students were able to incorporate the internships on their college applications.







#### **LGBT Child Abuse Prevention Council**

In 2020 and 2021, the LGBT Council was unable to support the in-person EDGY Conference due to COVID but it was rescheduled for May 2022. In place of the in-person conference, a compelling shortened EDGY virtual workshop was held on November 10, 2021 and focused on "Intersecting Identities" (<a href="https://edgyconference.com">https://edgyconference.com</a>).

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This project, in collaboration with Penny Lane, includes the planning and development of (and professional scholarships to) the 11th Annual Embracing Diversity of GLBTQ Youth (E.D.G.Y.) Conference now scheduled for May 2022. As a result, the Council focused on the production of a new set of social marketing materials (Family Acceptance Project Posters), the redesign of our logo/brand, and supporting DCFS Champions in several offices.

The DCFS LGBTQ+ Program was established in February 2020 with their kick-off event the following February 2021. Jamie Estrada, Program Manager of the DCFS LGBTQ+ Program, requested support from the Council to help the newly formed DCFS Office of Equity recognize and support DCFS employees who would act as "Champions" in their regional offices. He requested we fund a variety of LGBTQ+ pins, flags, and pronoun buttons to be given to and utilized by the Champions in each of their regional offices and programs. The LGBTQ+ Champions are being used as subject matter experts and having visuals to help people know who they are was important. Additionally, the Champions signify acceptance and affirmation to youth to improve engagement, allowing young people to feel safe and comfortable in sharing who they are. Materials were purchased and distributed to DCFS staff.

#### San Gabriel Valley Child Abuse Prevention Council (SGV)

All SGV Council programs were held virtually this year, with the exception of a drive-through resource event. The Council's goals were to reach families and participants virtually through Zoom. SGV provided a virtual 5K, a drive-through resource fair, a training on "Resilience in Times of Uncertainty" via zoom, and a Youth Summit.

#### **SPA 2 Council for Child Abuse Prevention**

Utilizing monthly Board and collaborative meetings, the SPA 2 Council conducted an informal poll as to what was needed most in the community. Support for overwhelmed helpers working with families rose to the top. With that in mind, the group amended the original April event in order to provide a special training for child welfare professionals and community leaders on "Navigating Overwhelm: Caring for Self While Caring for Others During the Time of COVID." Presented by Laura Van Dernoot Lipsky with the Trauma Stewardship Institute, this training addressed the vicarious trauma, stress, and burnout that many social services professionals have experienced over the past year due to the pandemic and its impact on how we work. Adjusting to working remotely via virtual platforms or telehealth, on-going stress related to exposure to a potentially deadly virus, often working from home while home-schooling our own children, loss of employment or reduction of hours are only some of the stressors impacting the traditional helping professionals in our communities. This interactive training was provided virtually through the Zoom platform and 174 professionals attended. Self-care is critical to successfully handling the challenges of parenting, and self-care is critical for those who provide education, treatment, and support for parents in order to reduce and/or eliminate child abuse and neglect. Often people in this field are at risk for burn-out which makes them less effective when working with children and families. The Council feels confident that this training provided support to the child welfare community, and since then, had reports that attendees shared the tools and ideas from the training with other colleagues and families with whom they work.

#### **SPA 7 Child Abuse Prevention Council**

The COVID-19 pandemic did not disrupt direct services connected to the SPA 7 Council, however, it has changed the way our group delivers services. For many, the impact on health and income has been devastating, especially for vulnerable families and their children with no financial buffers. Although the Council continued to provide services, all activities occurred virtually via Zoom. Both the Choices Conferences for youth (75 attendees), as well as the parent conference (98 attendees) were successful due to high attendance and engaged participation.

Additionally, the SPA 7 Council had great collaboration with community partners which allowed for increased leveraging of resources. These successful partnerships include: Rio Hondo College, Hispanic Outreach Task

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Force, local high schools, Human Services Association, East Los Angeles Women's Center, the Boys and Girls Club, and Penny Lane.

#### Westside Anti-Violence Authority (WAVA)

WAVA's goals for digital safety workshops were to: 1) Empower parents to learn more about the technology that their children are using and have conversations with them about online safety; 2) Demystify common misconceptions about technology; 3) Inform and empower teens on the technology that they use that could be utilized for harm. These goals were met within through the completion of eight workshops held for completed with teens and the one workshop completed for with parents that included elements of the digital safety training. The WAVA Council had to pivot its projects this year due to COVID-19, such as such as commissioning a curriculum on preventing technology abuse. WAVA hopes to expand these trainings and thus the success of these goals further in the upcoming year.

Another goal for the Council was to reinvigorate the Westside coalition, by re-establishing WAVA as a community-wide anti-violence coalition, encouraging former members to rejoin and outreaching to new community partners. The kick-off meeting was successful in introducing the Westside Anti-Violence Authority to potential members, as well as identifying returning members who understood the value of the coalition's violence prevention efforts. At the relaunch meeting, the members agreed to keep the mission of the group the same: prevention of child abuse, domestic violence (IPV) and sexual violence in our communities. Participants in first meeting expressed appreciation and indicated they were excited to participate in the relaunched meetings.

#### **TOTAL PEOPLE, CHILDREN & FAMILIES INVOLVED OR IMPACTED**

The Child Abuse Councils were asked to provide their best estimates with regards to the number of children, families, and total adults that were involved or impacted by the activities performed in the 2020-21 contract year throughout Los Angeles County. The following chart illustrates their combined responses:

	Children	Families	Total Adults
Number of people involved or impacted by the projects:	25,832	7,582	16,342
Number of people with identified special needs involved or impacted by the projects (3 groups collect this data):	1,402	925	1,038

#### TRAININGS/WORKSHOPS

State of Child Abuse

A primary function of the Los Angeles County Child Abuse Prevention Councils is to provide their communities relevant and timely trainings/workshops. In the 2020-21 contract year, 9 of the 12 Councils were able to provide at least one training or workshop on a wide range of topics and in total, 1,564 community members, parents, home visitors, mental health clinicians, social workers, care givers, resource parents, early childhood educators, students and other professionals working in the child welfare field received free or low-cost trainings. Similar to the 2019-20 contract year, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, many Councils continued to hold their events virtually due to the global health crisis.

#### **DISTRIBUTED PRINTED PREVENTION MATERIALS**

The Councils create and distribute a variety of community friendly child abuse prevention materials in numerous languages. In the 2020-21 year, many materially were distributed virtually. Materials available include:

"Daily Acts of Kindness Towards Children" Calendars (Languages: English, Spanish, Khmer, Tagalog,



Korean, Vietnamese, traditional Chinese)

- "Guide to Positive Parenting" (Languages: English & Spanish)
- "California Mandated Reporting, Easy Steps..." pamphlet (Languages: English & Spanish)
- "It only takes a minute to brighten a child's life" Bookmarks (Language: English)
- "Together We stand Up Against Bullying!" pamphlet (Languages: English, Spanish, traditional Chinese)

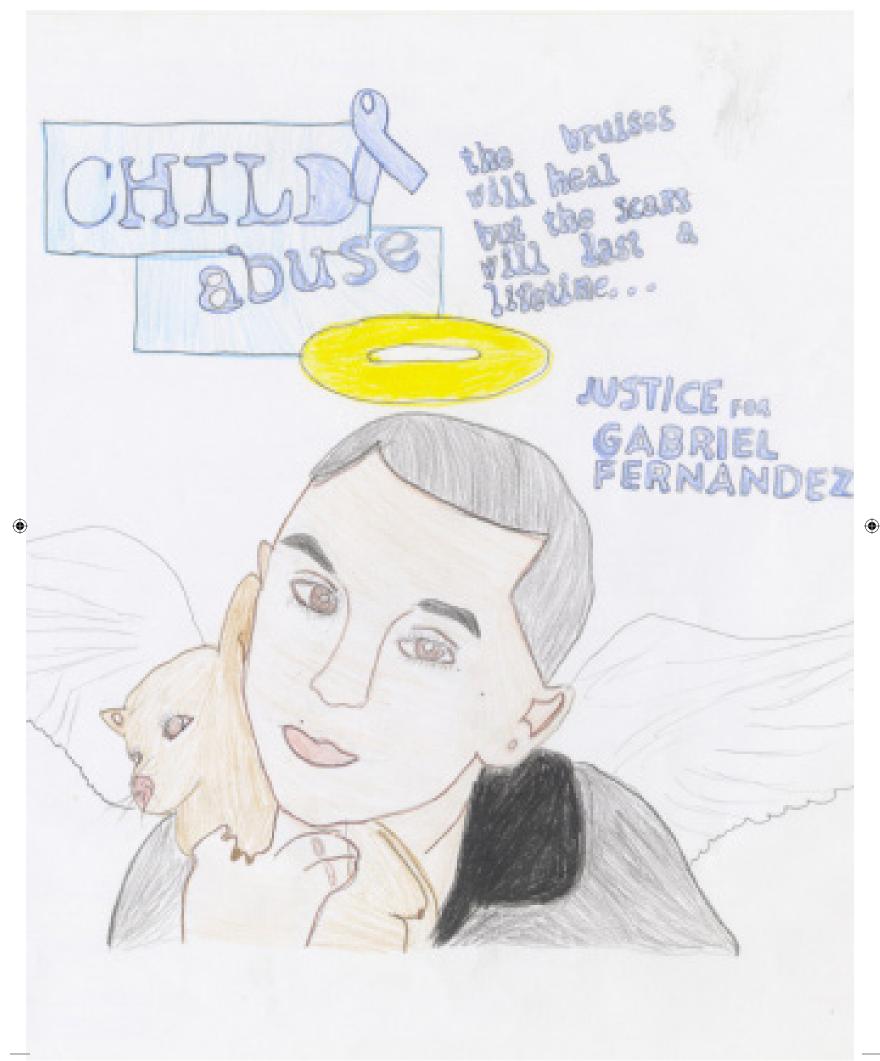
- "Resources for Families and Friends After a Suicide, Suicide Attempt or Threat" wallet cards (Languages: English & Spanish)
- "5 things to know" LGBT resource card (Languages: English & Spanish)
- "Safe Zone" stickers, created by the LGBT Council (Language: English)
- "Take One Moment" Poster Campaign for SPA 2 (Languages: English & Spanish)
- Strengthening Families Resources (distributed virtually from DCFS)

The LAC-CAPCs distributed an estimated 19,809 prevention related materials (print and virtual) to community partners, parents, community residents and service providers within all LA County SPA's (1-8) from 2020-21.













## SECTION IV: ICAN ORGANIZATIONAL SUMMARY

Art by Melany Velasquez, ICAN Student Poster Art Contest



#### ICAN Organizational Summary

The Inter-Agency Council on Child Abuse and Neglect (ICAN) was established in 1977 by the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors. ICAN serves as the official County agent to coordinate development of services for the prevention, identification and treatment of child abuse and neglect

Thirty-two County, City, State and Federal agency heads are members of the ICAN Policy Committee, along with UCLA, three private sector members appointed by the Board of Supervisors. ICAN's Policy Committee is comprised of the heads of each of the member agencies. The ICAN Operations Committee, which includes designated child abuse specialists from each member agency, carries out the activities of ICAN through its work as a committee and through various standing and ad hoc sub-committees. Twelve community based inter-disciplinary child abuse councils interface with ICAN and provide valuable information to ICAN regarding many child abuse related issues. ICAN Associates is a private non-profit corporation of volunteer business and com- munity members who raise funds and public awareness for programs and issues identified by ICAN. In 1996, ICAN was designated as the National Center on Child Fatality Review by the U.S. Department of Justice.

This strong multi-level, multi-disciplinary and community network provides a framework through which ICAN is able to identify those issues critical to the well-being of children and families. ICAN is then able to advise the members, the Board and the public on relevant issues and to develop strategies to implement programs that will improve the community's collective ability to meet the needs of abused and at-risk children with the limited resources available.

ICAN has received national recognition as a model for inter-agency coordination for the protection of children. All ICAN Policy and Operations Committee meetings are open to the public. All interested professionals and community volunteers are encouraged to attend and participate.

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#### **ICAN STAFF**

#### **DEANNE TILTON DURFEE**

**Executive Director** 

#### **EDIE SHULMAN**

**Assistant Director** 

#### TOM FRASER

Program Administrator

#### **MARIANNE YAMATO**

Program Administrator

#### SUSANA MONTANEZ

Program Administrator

#### NANCY URQUILLA

Program Administrator

#### KARLA LATIN

Administrative Assistant

#### SABINA ALVAREZ

Senior Secretary IV

#### JEREMY HUANG

Senior Secretary III

#### ICAN ASSOCIATES STAFF & CONSULTANTS

#### PAUL CLICK

**Technology Manager** 

#### **JOHN SOLANO**

**IT Coordinator** 

#### MICHAEL DURFEE, MD

**Chief Consultant** 

#### SANDRA GUINE

Consultant

#### **BRENDA GONZALEZ**

Consultant

#### FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

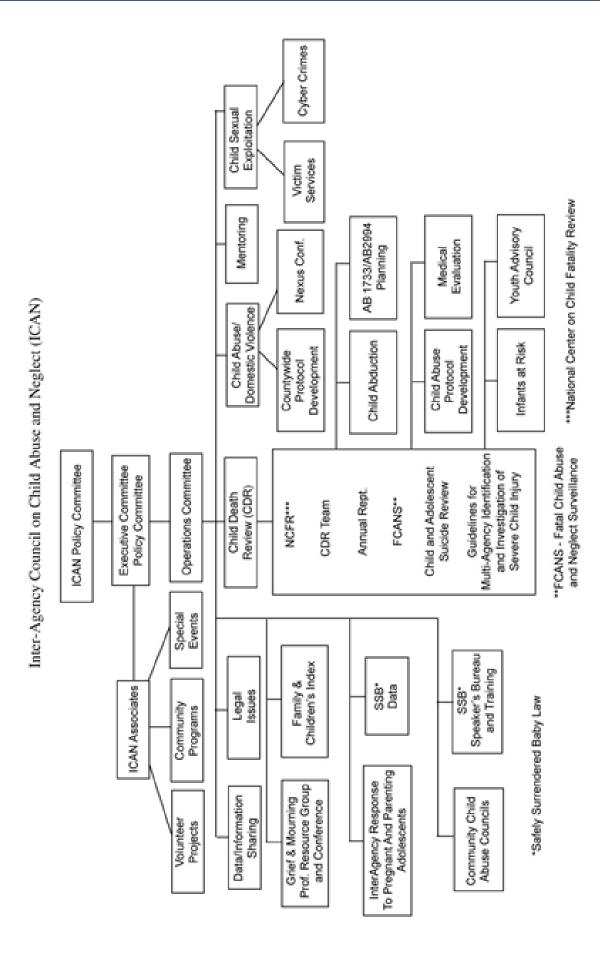
## INTER-AGENCY COUNCIL ON CHILD ABUSE & NEGLECT

4024 N. DURFEE AVE. EL MONTE, CA 91732

Phone: (626) 455-4585 Fax: (626) 444-4851

Website: www.ican4kids.org Email: ican@lacounty.gov





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#### **POLICY COMMITTEE**

Twenty-seven Department heads, UCLA, five Board appointees and an ICAN youth representative. Gives direction and forms policy, reviews the work of subcommittees and votes on major issues. (Meets twice annually).

#### **COUNTY EXECUTIVES POLICY COMMITTEE**

Nine County Department heads. Identifies and discusses key issues related to county policy as it affects the safety of children. (Meets as needed).

#### **OPERATIONS COMMITTEE**

Working body of member agency and community council representatives. Reviews activities of subcommittees, discusses emerging issues and current events, recommends specific follow-up actions. (Meets monthly).

#### **OPERATIONS EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

Leadership for Operations Committee and liaison to Policy Committee. Helps set agenda for Operations and Policy meetings. (Meets as needed).

#### ICAN ASSOCIATES

Private incorporated fundraising arm and support organization or ICAN. Sponsors special events, hosts ICAN Policy meetings and receptions, promotes public awareness and raises funds for specific ICAN projects. Maintains volunteer program, conducts media campaigns, issues newsletter and provides support and in-kind donations to community programs, supports special projects such as the, MacLaren Holiday Party and county-wide Children's Poster Art Contest. Promotes projects developed by ICAN (e.g., Family and Children's Index). (Meets as needed).

#### CHILD DEATH REVIEW TEAM

Provides multi-agency review of intentional and preventable child deaths for better case management and for system improvement. Produces annual report. (Meets monthly).

#### **DATA/INFORMATION SHARING**

Focuses on intra and inter agency systems of information sharing and accountability. Produces annual ICAN Data Analysis Report. The State of Child Abuse in Los Angeles County, which highlights data on ICAN agencies' services. Issues annual report. (Meets monthly)

#### **LEGAL ISSUES**

Analyzes relevant legal issues and legislation. Develops recommendations for ICAN Policy Committee and Los Angeles County regarding positions on pending legislation; identifies issues needing legislative remedy. (Meets as needed).

#### **TRAINING**

Provides and facilitates intra and inter agency training. (Meets monthly).

#### **CHILD ABUSE COUNCILS**

Provides interface of membership of 12 community child abuse councils involving hundreds of organizations and professionals with ICAN. Councils are interdisciplinary with open membership and organized geographically, culturally, and ethnically. Coordinates public awareness campaigns, provides networking and training for professionals, identifies public policy issues and opportunities for public/private, community-based projects. (Meets monthly).

#### CHILD ABUSE/DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

Examines the relationship between child abuse and domestic violence; develops interdisciplinary protocols and training for professionals. Provides training regarding issues of family violence, including mandatory reporting. Sponsors the annual NEXUS conference (Meets as needed for the planning of NEXUS Conference).

## GRIEF AND MOURNING PROFESSIONAL RESOURCE GROUP AND CONFERENCE

Aprofessional peer group which serves as a resource pool of experts in grief and loss therapy to those providing mental health interventions to surviving family members of fatal family violence. The Group is developing specialized training in grief issues in instances of fatal family violence and a resource directory of services. (Meets monthly).

#### FAMILY AND CHILDREN'S INDEX

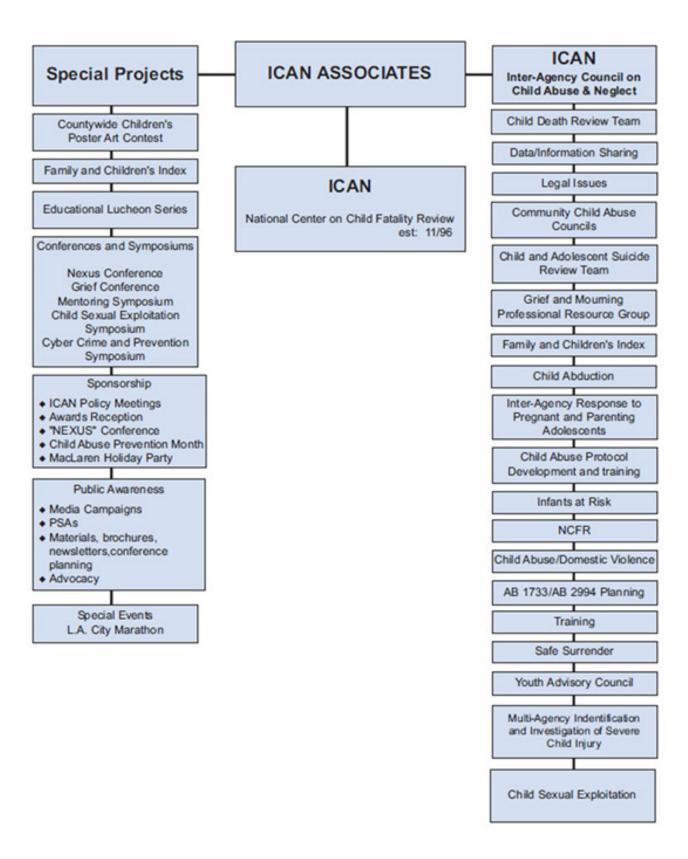
Development and implementation of an inter-agency database to allow agencies access to information on whether other agencies had relevant previous contact with a child or family in order to form multi-disciplinary personnel teams to assure service needs are met or to intervene before a child is seriously or fatally injured. (Meets monthly).

#### **CHILD ABDUCTION**

Public/private partnership to respond to needs of

#### ICAN Organizational Chart











#### **ICAN Projects**

children who have experienced abduction. Provides coordinated multi-agency response to recovery and reunification of abducted children, including crisis intervention and mental health services. (Meets monthly).

#### **AB 1733/AB 2994 PLANNING**

Conducts needs assessments and develops funding guidelines and priorities for child abuse services; participates in RFP process and develops recommendations for funding of agencies. (Meets as needed).

## INTER-AGENCY RESPONSE TO PREGNANT AND PARENTING ADOLESCENTS

Focuses on review of ICAN agencies' policies, guidelines and protocols that relate to pregnant and parenting adolescents and the development of strategies which provide for more effective prevention and intervention programs with this high risk population. Includes focus on child abuse issues related to pregnant teens, prevention of teen pregnancies, placement options for teen mothers and babies, data collection, legal issues and public policy development. (Meets monthly).

#### CHILD ABUSE PROTOCOL DEVELOPMENT

Develops a county-wide protocol for inter-agency response to suspected child abuse and neglect. (Meets as needed).

## CHILD ABUSE EVALUATION REGIONALIZATION

Coordinates efforts to facilitate and expand availability of quality medical exams for child abuse victims throughout the County. (Meets as needed).

## NATIONAL CENTER ON CHILD FATALITY REVIEW (NCFR)

In November 1996, ICAN was designated as the NCFR and serves as a national resource to state and local child death review teams. NCFR resources are available at <a href="http://ican4kids.org">http://ican4kids.org</a>.

## CHILD AND ADOLESCENT SUICIDE REVIEW TEAM

Multi-disciplinary sub-group of the ICAN Child Death Review Team. Reviews child and adolescent suicides. Analyzes trends and makes recommendations aimed at the recognition and prevention of suicide and suicidal behaviors. (Meets monthly).

#### INFANTS AT RISK

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Works with hospitals, DCFS and community agencies regarding the reporting of infants at risk of abuse/neglect due to perinantal substance exposure. (Meets monthly).

## CHILD SEXUAL EXPLOITATION COMMITTEE (CSEC)

Focuses on Internet Crimes Against Children, Child Prostitution, and Human Trafficking of Children through the coordination of local, state, and federal agencies and service providers. The goal is to improve the effectiveness of the prevention, identification, investigation, prosecution and provision of services for victims of these crimes. To best meet these goals, a separate subcommittee on Cyber Crime Prevention was formed to develop prevention efforts leaving the CSEC Committee to focus on victim services.

## MULTI-AGENCY IDENTIFICATION AND INVESTIGATION OF SEVERE AND FATAL CHILD INJURY

With the support of a grant from the Office of Emergency Services (OES), ICAN updated the LA County SCAN team registers, collected existing SCAN and Child Death Review protocols, and surveyed literature for trends and standards, surveyed data systems among agencies to assist in information sharing.

#### SAFELY SURRENDER BABY LAW (SSBL)

Responsible for notifying the Board of Supervisors, Chief Administrative Office, and others of safe surrenders and abandonments, as well as collecting and analyzing data on these cases and preparing an annual written report to the Board of Supervisors. ICAN maintains a Speakers' Bureau, which has trained nearly a thousand individuals in the public and private sectors. ICAN also is responsible for maintaining the County of Los Angeles Safely Surrendered Baby Law website known as BabySafeLA and responding to the various inquires for information and public information material.

#### **NEXUS PLANNING COMMITTEE**

Develops and plans ICAN's annual NEXUS conference; a large multi-disciplinary conference addressing "Violence in the Home and It's Effects on Children." (Meets periodically during planning months)

#### ICAN Associates



#### ICAN ASSOCIATES

ICAN Associates is a private/non-profit organization which supports the LA County Inter-Agency Council on Child Abuse and Neglect (ICAN) and the important issues addressed by ICAN. The Board of ICAN Associates consists of business, media and community leaders.

ICAN Associates supports ICAN through the provision of services including dissemination of materials, hosting media campaigns, sponsorship of educational forums, support of direct and indirect services to prevent child abuse and neglect as well as promoting integration and collaboration among child service agencies. Further, ICAN Associates sponsors special events for vulnerable and abused children, publishes newsletters, and coordinates community educational projects. The formation of ICAN Associates represents one of the first and most effective public/private partnerships in the nation addressing the critical issues and needs surrounding child abuse and neglect.

ICAN Associates has been extremely successful in securing funding through grants, corporate and private sponsorships:

In November 1996, ICAN/ICAN Associates launched the ICAN National Center on Child Fatality Review (ICAN/NCFR) at a news conference held in connection with the United States Department of Justice and United States Department of Health and Human Services. Funding for this major national project was facilitated through the efforts of ICAN Associates. Generous support was secured through the United States Department of Justice, Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention; Times Mirror Foundation and the family of Chief Medical Examiner Lakshmanan Sathyavagiswaran.

ICAN/ICAN Associates provides statewide Child Death Review Team Training designed to address a range of issues to benefit the overall development and functioning of Child Death Review Teams throughout the State. The training curriculum was funded through a grant from the California Department of Social Services (CDSS).

In October 2018, ICAN Associates sponsored the 23<sup>rd</sup> Annual NEXUS Conference, in conjunction with The Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS), community groups and ICAN agencies. The conference presented an opportunity to hear from local, state and national experts, about the impact of all forms of violence within the home on children as well as potential solutions. The information

presented will inspire professionals and volunteers to develop and participate in efforts aimed at preventing violence in the home and in communities.

ICAN Associates again sponsored the Annual Child Abuse Prevention Month Children's Poster Art Contest which raises awareness about child abuse in schools throughout Los Angeles County. Children in the 4th, 5th and 6th grades and in special education classes participate in this contest. The children's artwork is displayed at the California Department of Social Services in Sacramento, Edmund D. Edelman Children's Court, L. A. County Office of Education, District Attorney's Office, and Hollywood Library and in numerous national publications.





#### ICAN Associates Board Members

#### <u>CHAIRPERSON</u>

#### LINDSAY WAGNER

Producer/Actor

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#### ICAN EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

#### **DEANNE TILTON-DURFEE**

Doc.Hc

#### **MEMBERS**

#### **MONICA HYLANDE-LATTE**

The Fun Fund, Clinical Psychologist, Child Advocate

#### **MICHELE VICENCIA JONDLE**

CIC, Senior Vice President, HUB International Insurance Services

#### **BEVERLY KURTZ**

Los Angeles County Museum of Art Docent Council

#### **ELAINE TREBEK-KARES**

CEO, IN-HOUSE Media & Entertainment, Founder ICAN Associates

#### **JUSTIN CHAMBERS**

Actor

#### **JEN LILLEY**

Actress/Singer

#### **PAUL MONES**

Attorney

#### **ALISON WILCOX**

CASA

#### **FOUNDERS**

LADY SARAH CHURCHILL

**ALEX TREBEK** 

**ELAINE TREBEK-KARES** 

**SYBIL BRAND** 

**CHRISTINA CRAWFORD** 

**BOURNE MORRIS** 

FRANK VICENCIA, ESQ.

**SALLIE PERKINS** 

#### Los Angeles County Child Abuse Coordination Project Members



The Los Angeles Community Child Abuse Councils consist of 12 community-based councils throughout Los Angeles County. The mission of the Councils is to reduce the incidence of child abuse and neglect, and to raise public awareness of child abuse and family violence issues. The membership of the Councils is made up of professionals working in the fields of child welfare, education, law enforcement, health and mental health as well as parents and anyone concerned about the problems of child abuse and family violence. The Child Abuse Councils Coordination Project facilitates the joint projects of the 12 Community Councils. Since the child abuse councils are volunteer organizations, and most members have full time jobs apart from their involvement with the councils, it is important that our projects can be implemented easily and quickly. The Coordination Project also serves the councils by providing technical assistance and professional education, advocating for children issues, and networking with other councils and agencies on behalf of the Councils. The Coordination Project has been in existence since 1987, and has been a non-profit corporation since March 1998. The Coordination Project acts as contractor with the Los Angeles County Department of Children and Family Services and the Office of Child Abuse Prevention (OCAP) to provide services to benefit the 12 Child Abuse Councils in their efforts to prevent child abuse.

The Los Angeles Community Child Abuse Councils are involved in the following seven joint projects:

- The Blue Ribbon Child Abuse Prevention Campaign (Held in April for the Child Abuse Prevention and Awareness Month)
- · Publication of the Children's Advocate Newsletter
- Report Card Insert Project
- Establishment and Maintenance of the Los Angeles County Child Abuse Prevention Council Website
- Training and Technical Assistance to the Community Relating to Child Abuse and Family Violence
- Monthly Meetings of the Council Chairs
- Special Projects for Individual Councils

For further information about the Los Angeles Community Child Abuse Councils contact Sare LaCroix, at (818) 790-9448 or visit our website at <u>lachildabusecouncils.org</u>.

#### COMMUNITY CHILD ABUSE COUNCILS

#### **Director:**

Sara La Croix, MSW, MPA – <u>saralacroix@all4kids.</u> <u>org</u>; 714-785-2530

#### Manager:

Catherine Rose Grimes, MSW – <u>catherinerosegrimes@all4kids.org</u>; 714-785-9363

## Council Chairs: LGBTQ+

Mark Abelsson - <u>abelsson@earthlink.net</u>

## Advocacy Council for Abused Deaf Children (ACADC)

Cody Hanable - <a href="mailto:chanable@5acres.org">chanable@5acres.org</a>

## LAC-Family, Children, Community Advisory Council (LAC-FCCAC)

 Sandra Guine - <u>siguine@lacfccac.org</u>; <u>siguine@gmail.com</u>

#### SPA 2

 Deborah Davies - <u>ddavies@</u> <u>elnidofamilycenters.org</u>

#### **Eastside**

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- Celina Pacheco- <u>pacheca@dcfs.lacounty.gov</u>

#### **Foothill**

Erica Villalpando - ekarlinev33@gmail.com

#### San Gabriel Valley

Karen Nutt - knutt59@msn.com

#### SPA 7

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- Norma Yoguez <u>nyoguez@spiritt.org; normay@spiritt.org</u>
- Daisy Rojas daisyr@spiritt.org

## Asian Pacific Islander – Children, Youth, and Family Council (API-CYFC)

- Nayon Kang nkang@kyccla.org
- Jackie Ango jango@cscla.org
- Nina Yuen nyuen@cscla.org

#### ACTION for KIDS - Antelope Valley

- Rosie Mainella affirm1av@gmail.com
- Maria Teresa touchoflove44@gmail.com



#### Los Angeles County Child Abuse Coordination Project Members

 Marlene Mainella - <u>marleneisntabelle@gmail.</u> <u>com</u>

## Westside Anti-Violence Authority (WAVA) \*In the process of updating council name

- Tiernan Hebron <u>thebron@thepeopleconcern.</u>
   org
- Gabriela Tapia <a href="mailto:gtapia@thepeopleconcern.org">gtapia@thepeopleconcern.org</a>

#### End Abuse Long Beach

• Kathryn Miles - president@endabuselb.org



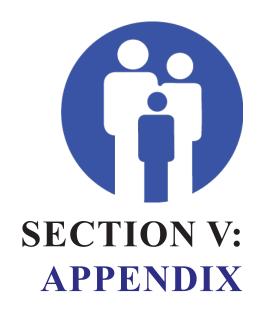
### Los Angeles County Child Abuse Coordination Project Members

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Art by Na'Hayle Ayana-Johnson, ICAN Student Poster Art Contest



#### **Categories of Abuse**

A significant accomplishment of the Los Angeles Inter-Agency Council on Child Abuse and Neglect Data/Information Sharing Subcommittee in the 1980's was to provide Los Angeles area agencies with a common definition of child abuse to serve as a reporting guideline. One purpose of this effort was to achieve compatibility with reporting guidelines used by the State of California.

Additionally, it was hoped that a common definition would enhance our ability to better measure the extent of our progress and our problems, independent of the boundaries of particular organizations. As you read the reports in this document you will see that this hope is certainly being realized. Since their inception, the definitions have increasingly been applied by ICAN agencies with each annual report that has been published. This year's Data Analysis Report is no exception. This year, more than half of the reporting agencies have been able to apply them to their reports in one way or another.

The Data/Information Sharing Sub-committee hopes that as operational automated systems are implemented and enhanced by ICAN agencies, these classifications will be considered and more fully institutionalized. We believe that over time, their use will enable the agencies to achieve a more unified and effective focus on the issues. The seven reporting categories are defined as follows:

#### PHYSICAL ABUSE

A physical injury which is inflicted by other than accidental means on a child by another person. Physical abuse includes deliberate acts of cruelty, unjustifiable punishment, and violence towards the child such as striking, throwing, biting, burning, cutting, twisting limbs.

#### SEXUAL ABUSE

Any sexual activity between a child and an adult or person five years older than the child.

This includes exhibitionism, lewd and threatening talk, fondling, and any form of intercourse.

#### SEVERE NEGLECT

The child's welfare has been risked or endangered or has been ignored to the degree that the child has failed to thrive, has been physically harmed or there is a very high probability that acts or omissions by the caregiver would lead to physical harm. This includes children who are malnourished, medically diagnosed nonorganic failure to thrive, or prenatally exposed to alcohol or other drugs.

#### **GENERAL NEGLECT**

The person responsible for the child's welfare has failed to provide adequate food, shelter, clothing, supervision, and/or medical or dental care. This category includes latchkey children when they are unable to properly care for themselves due to their age or level of maturity.

#### **EMOTIONAL ABUSE**

Emotional abuse means willful cruelty or unjustifiable inappropriate punishment of a child to the extent that the child suffers physical trauma and intense personal/public humiliation.

#### **EXPLOITATION**

Exploitation exists when a child is made to act in a way that is inconsistent with his/her age, skill level, or maturity. This includes sexual exploitation in the realm of child pornography and child prostitution. In addition, exploitation can be economic, forcing the child to enter the job market prematurely or inappropriately; or it can be social with the child expected to perform in the caretaker role, or it can be through technology through use of a computer, the telephone, or the internet.

#### CARETAKER ABSENCE/INCAPACITY

This refers to situations when the child is suffering either physically or emotionally, from the absence of the caretaker. This includes abandoned children, children left alone for prolonged periods of time without provision for their care, as well as children who lack proper parental care due to their parents' incapacity, whether physical or emotional.





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