

# Special Operations | Finding Kids

Prepared for the:

*Challenge Team Meeting, Mountain View*

August 1<sup>st</sup>, 2024



- Terminology
- The Problem
- Special Operations | Finding Kids : Who We Are & What We Do
- Collaborating ~ How We Can Help

**Missing child** is a minor (under 18) whose whereabouts are unknown to their parent, legal guardian, or other person with parental rights over the child. 911 should be called immediately and a missing child report filed.

**Child sex trafficking**, also known as **CSEC**, the **commercial sexual exploitation of children**, refers to commercial sex acts involving youth and children under the age of 18. Unlike with adults, there is no need for force, fraud or coercion to be involved for the child to be considered a trafficking victim.

**Commercial sex acts** includes prostitution, pornography and sexual performance done in exchange for any item of value, such as money, drugs shelter, food or clothes.

Hundreds of thousands of children are reported missing every year in the United States and millions more are exploited online. It's happening in plain sight, infiltrating every county and every zip code, from the wealthy to the poor.

Not enough is being done to find and protect these vulnerable children. Those who are recovered often lack the support they need to fully heal and thrive.



## REPORT CARDS ON CHILD & YOUTH SEX TRAFFICKING

- [REPORT CARDS](#)
- [NATIONAL STATE LAW SURVEY CHARTS](#)
- [ISSUE BRIEFS](#)
- [TOOLKIT](#)
- [FAQ](#)
- [SAFE HARBOR LAWS](#)
- [CONTACT US](#)



**CALIFORNIA SCORED A C  
IN THE 2022 SHARED  
HOPE INTERNATIONAL  
REPORT CARDS.**

### THE PROJECT

Since 2011, Shared Hope has laid the foundation for transformational policy, practice, and cultural change by supporting state legislators and stakeholders to enact the minimum fabric of laws needed to address child sex trafficking. The Report Cards on Child & Youth Sex Trafficking build upon the last decade of progress, challenging states to take the next step in the fight against sex trafficking by focusing on the area where the

Issue	Grade	Score
1. Criminal Provisions	<b>D</b>	<b>10.5</b> 17.5
2. Identification of and Response to Victims	<b>F</b>	<b>13</b> 27.5
3. Continuum of Care	<b>D</b>	<b>9.5</b> 15
4. Access to Justice for Trafficking Survivors	<b>C</b>	<b>11</b> 15
5. Tools for a Victim-Centered Criminal Justice Response	<b>C</b>	<b>7</b> 10
6. Prevention and Training	<b>B</b>	<b>12.5</b> 15
<b>EXTRA CREDIT</b>	Youth	<b>3</b>
	Child Labor Trafficking	<b>4</b>
<b>OVERALL GRADE TIER I</b>		<b>C 70.5</b>

**<5%**

Of trafficking cases related to a kidnapping or abduction

**35%**

Trafficked while living at home

**8636**

# of missing children reported in the nine Bay Area counties in 2023.

**75%**

% of missing child cases related to online sex advertisements.

**29%**

Trafficked by a friend or boyfriend

**51%**

Of trafficking victims believed to be in middle and elementary school

**2.2M**

DOJ estimate of # of runaways in 2019 (at least 1 in 6 believed to be victims of trafficking).

**33%**

Studies show at least one-third of victims to be male youth. Boy victims are much more difficult to identify.

**7.4%**

% of teens in DC who admitted in a three-year anonymous study that they had exchanged sexual favors for cash, drugs or other items of economic value

**\*Hidden crimes like trafficking are difficult to measure and prevalence studies are few and far between. The numbers above should be taken as directional and not exact.**

**Sources:** NCMEC 2019; World Population Review 2021; Thorn Survivor Insights 2018.; National Human Trafficking Hotline, [worldwithoutexploitation.org](http://worldwithoutexploitation.org): "Get the Facts.: What we know about sex trafficking, prostitution, and sexual exploitation in the U.S." by Jody Raphael and Katie Feifer, September 2019. A Six-Year Analysis of Sex Trafficking of Minors: Characteristics and Sex Trafficking Patterns. Journal of Human Behavior in the Social Environment 29, 608-629. Polaris Study 2019; Shared Hope DC Study, CA DOJ Missing Child Stats

## Bay Area police arrest human trafficking suspect wanted for kidnapping, sexual exploitation of minor

The minor was safely recovered, released into the custody of Child Protective Services

## Law enforcement officials say human trafficking cases are up compared to past

Crime & Safety

## 5 Child Predators Nabbed In Marin County Sting, Police Say

The five men, including two from San Rafael, allegedly agreed to pay children for sex, according to police. (BREAKING)

NEWS

## Over 4,700 children linked to human trafficking in Alameda County

by: [Charles Clifford](#)

Posted: Oct 9, 2018 / 08:33 PM PDT

Updated: Oct 9, 2018 / 08:33 PM PDT

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Weather

AAPI Month

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## Human trafficking sting operation leads to arrests at San Rafael hotel

BAY AREA

## Two arrested in underage sex trafficking sting

by: [Katy St. Clair](#), [Bay City News](#)

Posted: May 12, 2022 / 06:27 AM PDT

Updated: May 12, 2022 / 06:27 AM PDT

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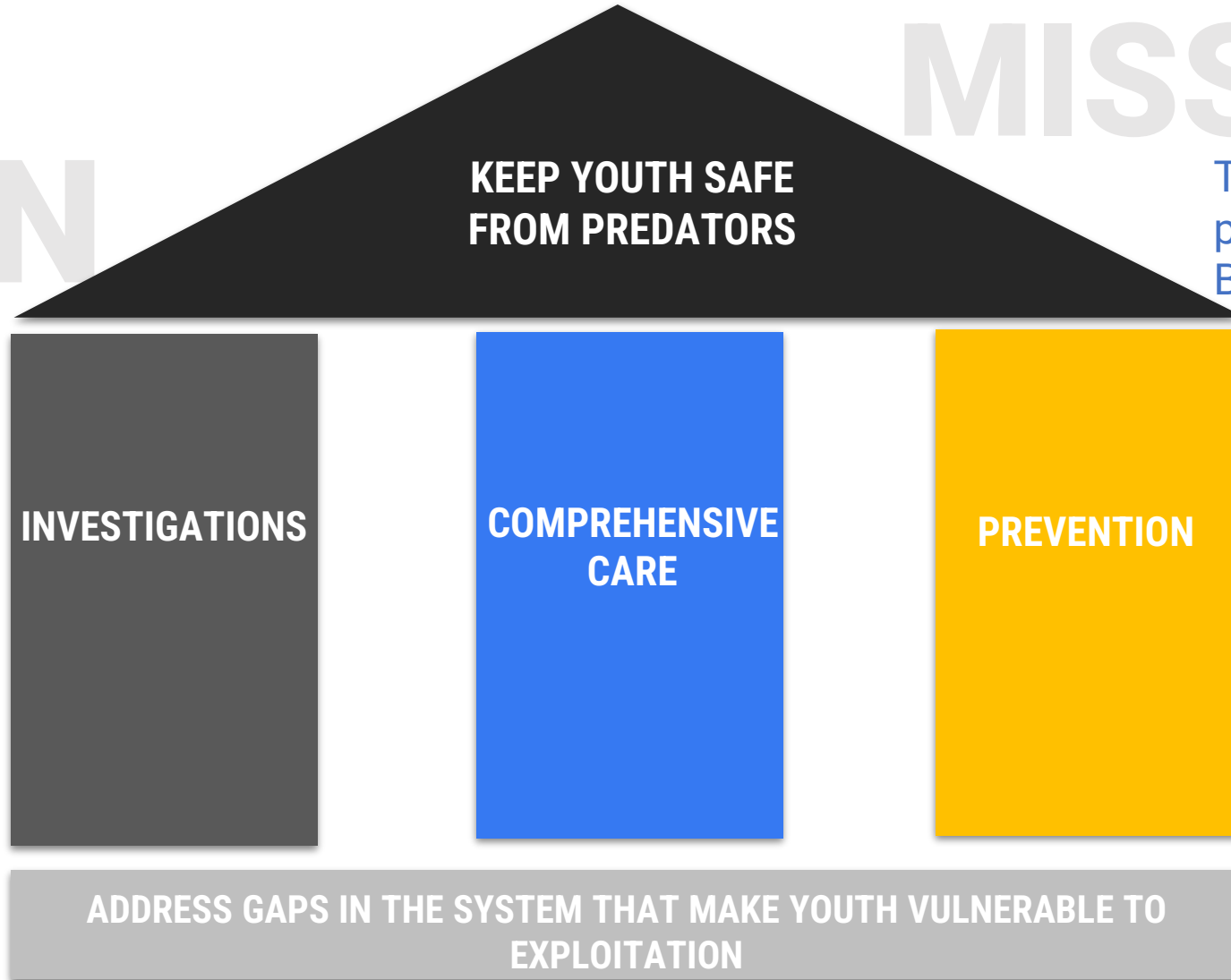


## VISION

That every child is free to be a child.

## MISSION

To keep kids safe from sexual predators in the Bay Area & Beyond



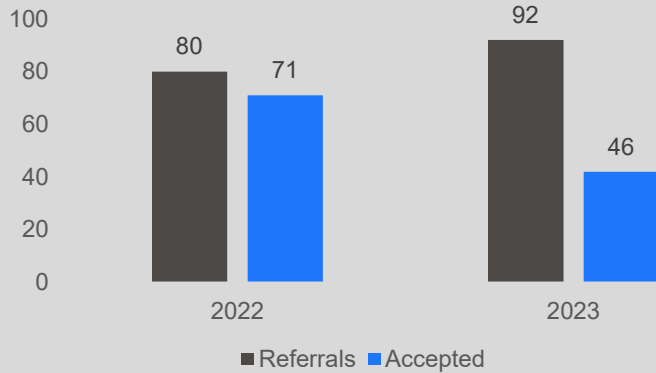
## PURPOSE

Identify and help find missing and exploited youth, get them the help they need and support the elimination of child exploitation.



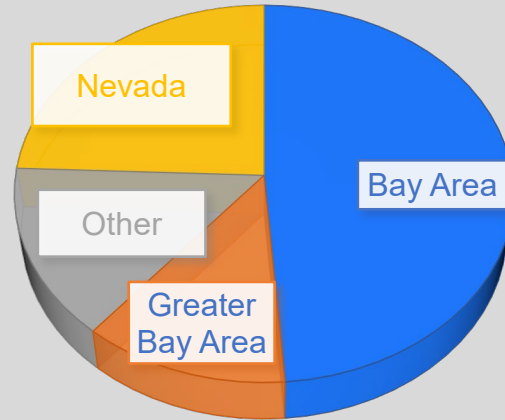
We accept cases where we can add the greatest value\*

## Case Intake

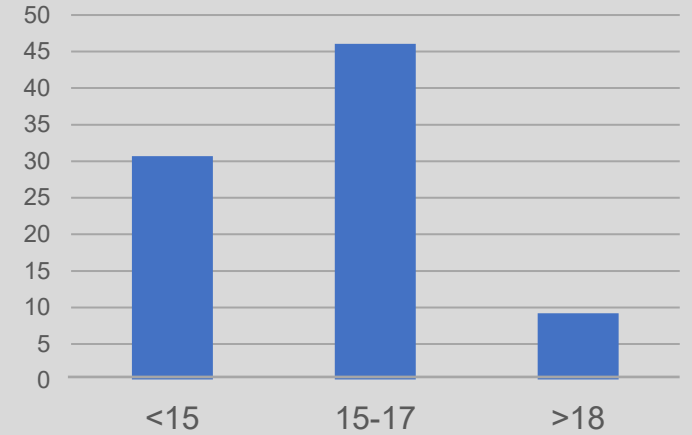


\* i.e. family in need; suspicious activity; non-system; law enforcement welcomes support.

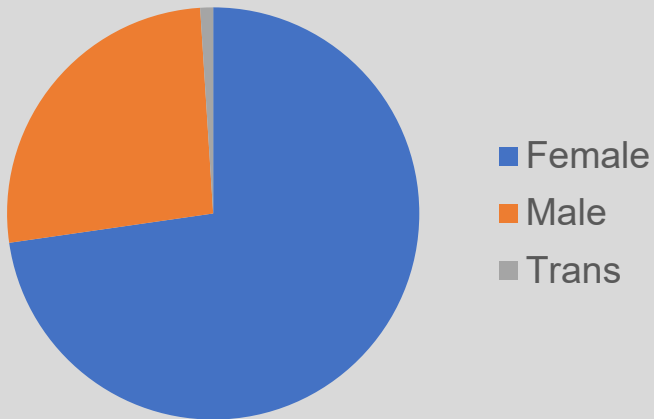
Operational focus remains in the Bay Area



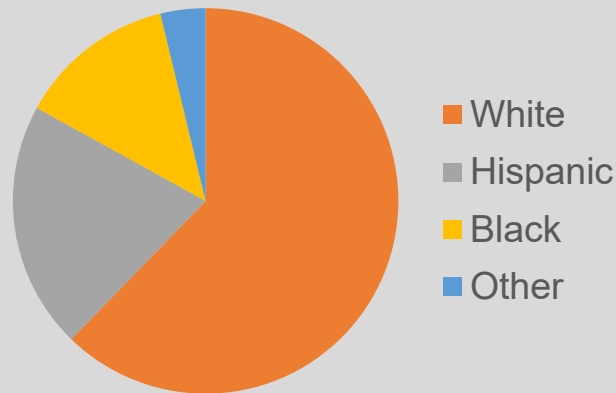
Average age is 15 years old



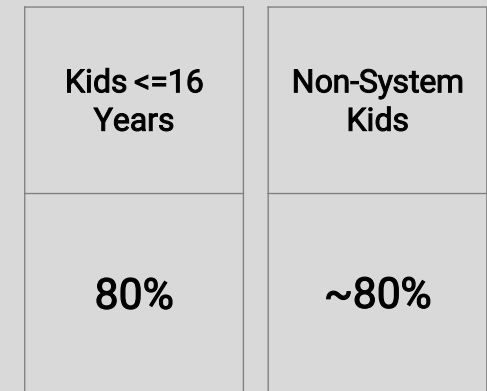
Boys are also at risk

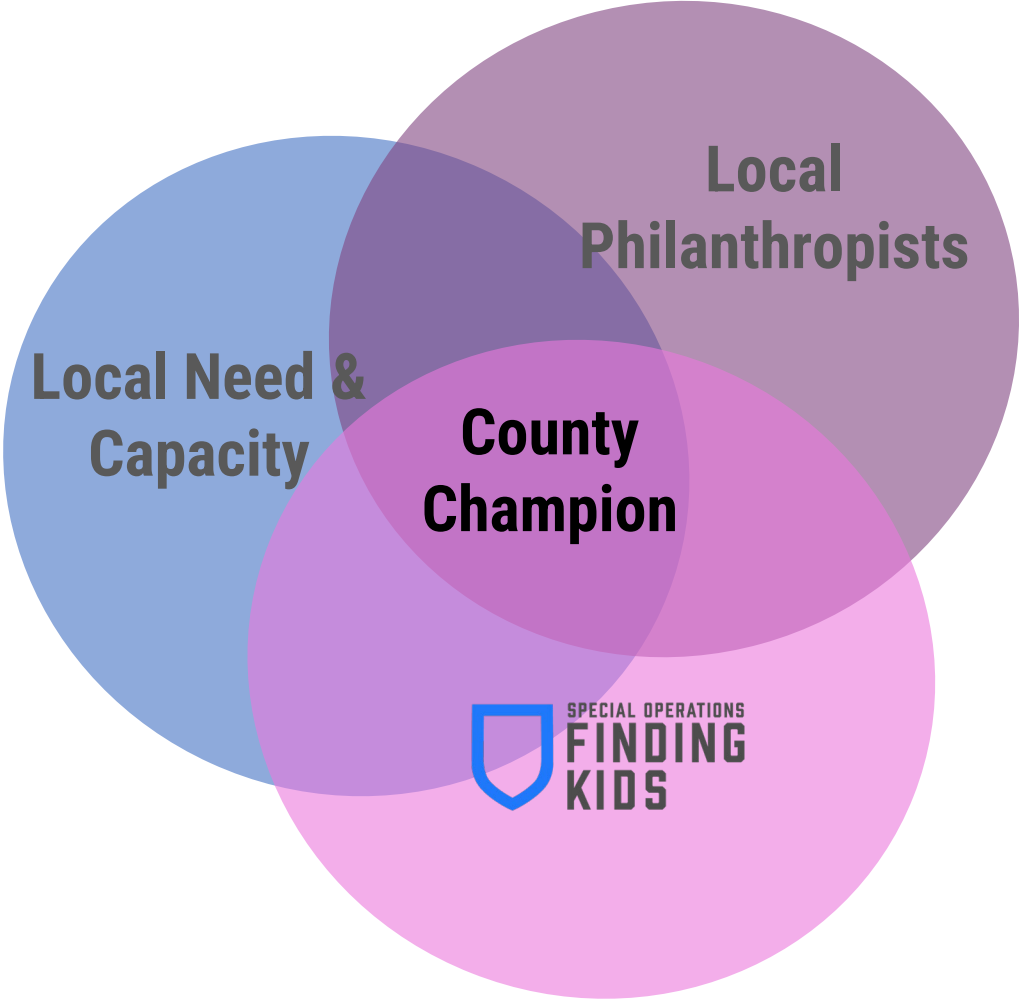


Exploiters do not discriminate



Most significant gap we see is for the search, recovery and support of non-system youth.





We exist to support You ~ law enforcement, parents and caregivers, social workers, educators and concerned community members

Have a case you'd like us to look into?

Please visit our website ~ [findingkids.org](https://findingkids.org) and complete our case intake form

We can provide dedicated private investigator resources, family/youth support and guidance, and training.

**THANK YOU !**  
[findingkids.org](http://findingkids.org)

Contact:  
[info@findingkids.org](mailto:info@findingkids.org)