



FOSTER CARE AND COMMERCIAL SEXUAL EXPLOITATION

According to the FBI, **more than 100,000** children in the U.S. find themselves being sold for sex.ⁱ These children are Commercially Sexually Exploited Children (CSEC). Youth in foster care have a higher likelihood of being exploited, with pimps preying on youth as young as 12.ⁱⁱ In Alameda County, California, **41% of 267 victims** in 2011-2012 were foster care children.ⁱⁱⁱ

"One recovered youth told me that, 'being in foster care was the perfect training for commercial sexual exploitation. I was used to being moved without warning, without any say, not knowing where I was going or whether I was allowed to pack my clothes. After years in foster care, I didn't think anyone would want to take care of me unless they were paid. So, when my pimp expected me to make money to support 'the family', it made sense to me.'"^{iv}

Although the U.S. supports a victim-centered approach, currently many CSEC survivors are treated as criminals and charged with prostitution.^v The CSEC population is beginning to gain national attention with new legislation allowing child welfare agencies to identify, track, and serve victims to and prevent human trafficking within the U.S. child welfare population.

PCG CSEC SUPPORT SERVICES

Recent attention from Congress and increased media attention on child sex trafficking has created new opportunities for child welfare agencies to implement successful prevention strategies for at-risk populations. There is a push to require state child welfare agencies to identify, document, and serve victims, as well as reduce risks and vulnerabilities for their youth in custody.

PCG has developed data analytics for use in child welfare agencies that can assist in prediction, prevention, and monitoring. Our extensive child welfare experience includes more than two decades of program assessment and evaluation of child welfare agencies across the U.S., Title IV-E claiming and consulting, and serving as a quality assurance vendor. PCG also offers business process redesign services that can assist your agency in identifying key gaps for the CSEC population and re-engineering processes to close the gaps, thereby strengthening protections for these youth.

PCG subject matter experts offer deep expertise and knowledge of the child welfare system, including foster care, mental health, child development, youth behavior, juvenile justice, youth care, treatment and rehabilitation.

Learn more about these experts at www.publicconsultinggroup.com/humanservices/sme/.

ⁱ Young Minds Advocacy (2013). "Prevention of the Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Foster Children." Retrieved from <http://www.youngmindsadvocacy.org/csec-2/bid>.

ⁱⁱ U.S. Department of Education (June 26, 2007). "Human Trafficking of Children in the United States: A Fact Sheet for Schools." Retrieved from: <http://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/osedfs/factsheet.pdf>

ⁱⁱⁱ CAS Research and Education. "Factsheet: Foster Care and Human Trafficking." Retrieved from http://www.casre.org/our_children/fcht/

^{iv} California Child Welfare Council. "Ending the Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children: A Call for Multi-System Collaboration in California." Retrieved from: http://www.youthlaw.org/fileadmin/ncyl/youthlaw/publications/Ending-CSEC-A-Call-for-Multi-System_Collaboration-in-CA.pdf

^v Motivating Inspiring Supporting and Serving Sexually Exploited Youth (2013). "About Us." Retrieved from: <http://www.missey.org/about.html>