

🔍 Did you know...?

- 🔍 In California, anyone under 18-years old cannot legally agree to sex acts. This means any sex acts with them would be considered a crime.
- 🔍 On average, children start getting exploited around 10-12 years old.
- 🔍 Most exploited youths were sexually abused as children. They likely have been in (or still are) in the child welfare system and/or foster care.
- 🔍 Girls are not the only ones impacted. Research shows that boys make up between 31 - 70% of exploited children.
- 🔍 Commercial sexual exploitation may be happening to children you know. You can help by learning more. You can also share this information with other people.

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CSEC

COMMERCIAL SEXUAL EXPLOITATION OF CHILDREN AND YOUTHS

*Do you know about the business
of child exploitation?*



**VALLEY
CRISIS CENTER**
A Program of Alliance for Community Transformations

Commercial sexual exploitation of children (CSEC) is both a form of child sexual abuse and human trafficking.

It is when someone is able to sexually exploit a child in exchange for something of value. This exchange can be made (or promised) to the child or another person. It can be money or something else of value, like shelter and food.

So, why does it happen?

CSEC is a business that can make a lot of money. Unlike a product, a child can be sold again and again for a long time.

It also has a network of partners who benefit from participating. This can include monetary or non-monetary gains. For example, in exchange for not reporting, a hotel staff can sexually exploit the child.

Below is a general model of the CSEC business network and some common enablers:



Note: one party may play several roles

CSEC can happen through the general ways listed below:

- **Family facilitated:** when someone in the family allows another person to take advantage of a child sexually in exchange for something of value
- **Gang facilitated:** when the child is taken advantage of sexually as initiation and/or to bring money in for the gang
- **Buyer facilitated:** when there are people who will pay to take advantage of children sexually
 - There does not need to be a trafficker in these situations. Children may engage in sex acts in exchange for money and/or basic needs.
- **Trafficker facilitated:** when there is someone who sells the child for sex acts to earn money or something of value
- **Technology facilitated:** when the child is taken advantage of sexually through technology, such as text messaging or social media

