



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 (2019 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 which included the Sexual Assault Felony Enforcement (SAFE) Team Program merged with SVB. 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 aforementioned 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 in-service 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 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,
- and/or serious domestic violence with child victimization is suspected,
- incidents of Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children (CSEC),
- and any significant Human Trafficking incident.

In 2019, SVB had approximately 60 detectives, six sergeants, three lieutenants, and one Captain. SVB is comprised of six investigative regional teams. Each team is assigned one sergeant to oversee the detectives on the respective teams. There are two field lieutenants, which each supervise three regional teams, and one operations lieutenant. When the Human Trafficking Task Force and SAFE Team merged with SVB in June of 2019, 32 detectives, four sergeants, and three lieutenants were absorbed.

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 is 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 2019, the Sheriff's Department received approximately 16,884 E-SCARs from DCFS.

HUMAN TRAFFICKING TASK FORCE AND SAFE TEAM OVERVIEW

The Human Trafficking Task Force detectives investigate all reports of sex and labor trafficking, focusing primarily on the sex trafficking of minors.

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 nation's 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. The SAFE Team is responsible for assisting LASD patrol stations with 290 PC 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.



The data contained in the following tables and figures was obtained from LASD's Child Abuse Referral Entry System (CARES).

Table 1

CASES REPORTED BY STATION AND TYPE OF ABUSE 2019

STATION	PHYSICAL	SEXUAL	TOTAL
Altadena	31	31	62
Avalon	5	11	16
Carson	32	95	127
Century	69	224	293
Cerritos	11	38	49
Community Colleges	0	7	7
Compton	55	146	201
Crescenta Valley	11	20	31
East Los Angeles	83	203	286
Industry	41	178	219
Lakewood	104	237	341
Lancaster	220	424	644
Lomita	14	27	41
Major Crimes Bureau	24	85	109
Malibu/Lost Hills	10	17	27
Marina Del Rey	87	196	283
Norwalk	160	274	434
Palmdale	35	88	123
Pico Rivera	0	1	1
Pre-Employment	0	8	8
San Dimas	29	78	107
Santa Clarita Valley	78	227	305
South Los Angeles/Lennox	40	95	135
Special Victims Bureau	4	28	32
Temple	49	137	186
Transit Services Bureau	1	11	12
Walnut/Diamond Bar	44	85	129
West Hollywood	2	48	50
TOTAL	1239	3019	4258

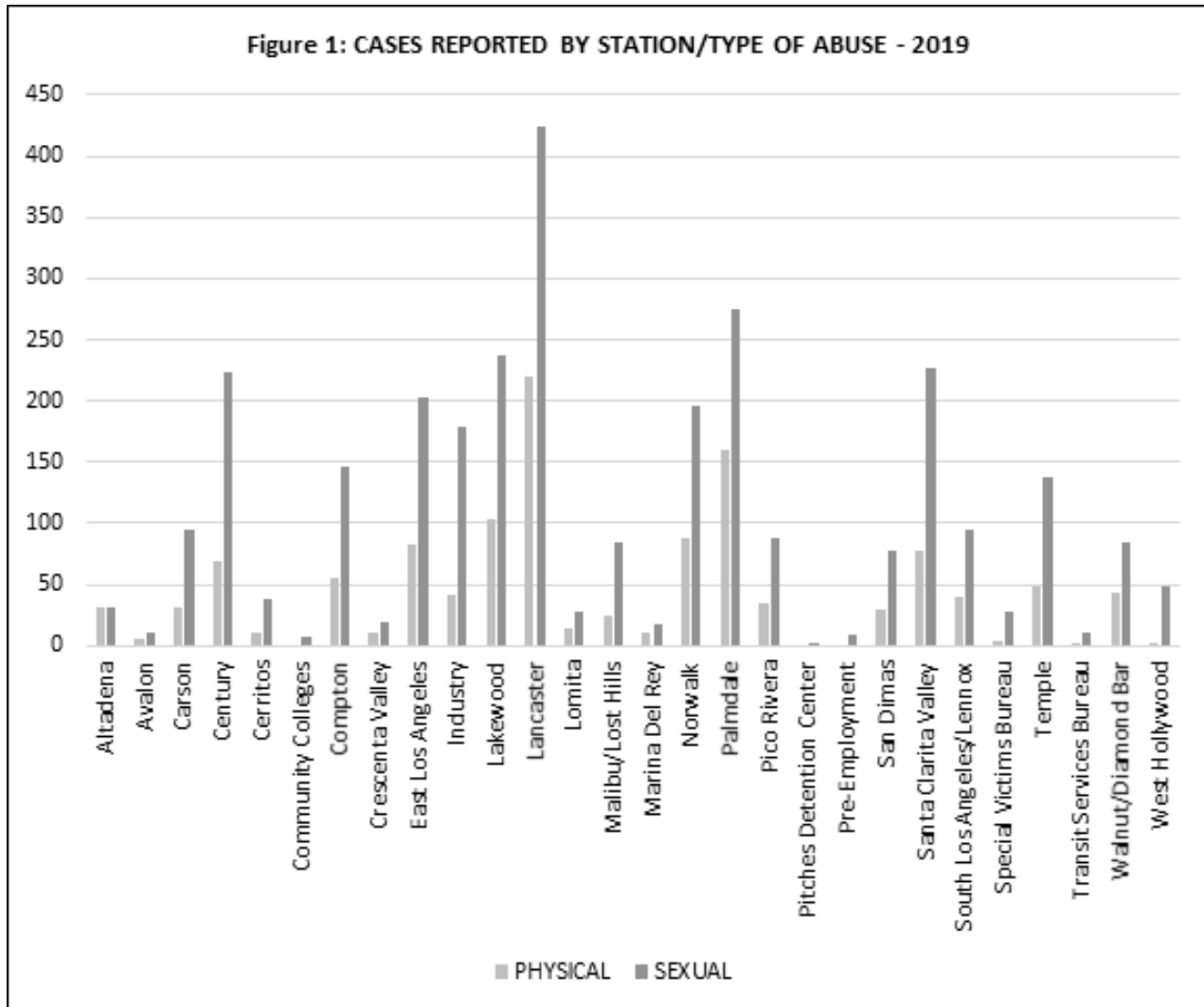


Table 2

CASES BY ABUSE TYPE
2019

PHYSICAL	SEXUAL	TOTAL
1239	3019	4258

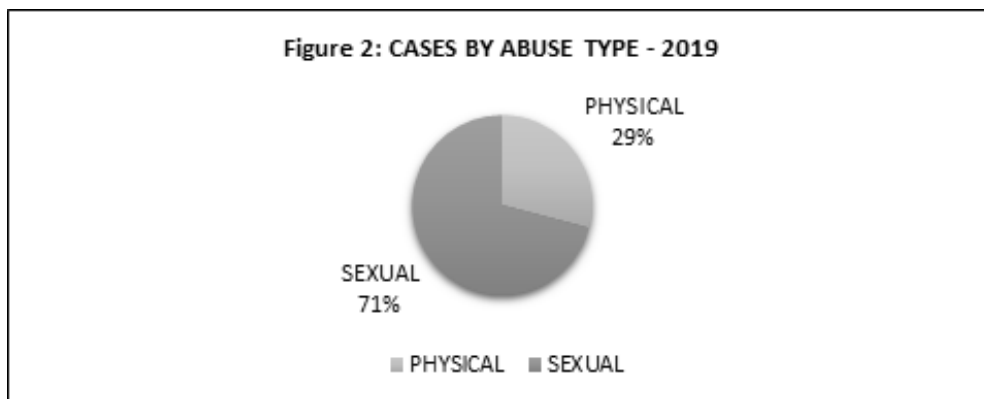




Table 3

**CASES REPORTED BY STATION - 2019
COMPARISON OF CASES FOR FIVE YEARS 2015 - 2019**

STATION	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	TOTAL
Altadena	51	50	50	72	62	272
Avalon	3	7	10	8	16	32
Carson	138	118	127	151	127	619
Century	346	323	284	291	293	1557
Century Regional Detention Facility	3	0	1	0	0	4
Cerritos	50	40	46	62	49	229
Community Colleges	4	2	4	5	7	17
Compton	315	241	193	190	201	1175
County Services Bureau	0	0	0	0	0	5
Crescenta Valley	34	34	38	34	31	164
East Los Angeles	288	308	315	311	286	1502
Industry	247	223	237	239	219	1136
Lakewood	409	339	319	361	341	1696
Lancaster	457	404	525	649	644	2348
Lomita	73	63	60	53	41	301
Malibu/Lost Hills	109	85	102	121	109	481
Major Crimes	0	0	0	1	0	1
Marina Del Rey	40	22	31	23	27	140
Metrolink	0	1	0	0	0	2
Narcotics Bureau	0	0	0	0	0	0
North County Correctional Facility	0	0	0	0	0	0
Norwalk	304	269	326	317	283	1410
Palmdale	369	357	407	398	434	1875
Parks Bureau	0	0	0	0	0	5
Pico Rivera	144	109	131	120	123	614
Pitchess Detention Facility - North	0	0	0	0	1	0
Pre-Employment	2	0	1	1	8	4
San Dimas	106	102	110	91	107	472
Santa Clarita Valley	353	287	318	301	305	1458
South Los Angeles/Lennox	206	201	186	162	135	946
Special Victims Bureau	98	42	39	48	32	252
Temple	245	196	192	173	186	958
Transit Services	21	28	17	6	12	97
Walnut/Diamond Bar	85	98	121	117	129	493
West Hollywood	49	66	67	72	50	268
Totals	4549	4015	4257	4377	4258	20533



Table 4
VICTIMS BY AGE AND TYPE OF ABUSE
2019

	PHYSICAL		SEXUAL	
	Count	Percentage	Count	Percentage
Under 3	144	9.8%	39	1.1%
3 to 4	120	8.2%	99	2.9%
5 to 9	404	27.5%	321	9.4%
10 to 14	480	32.6%	884	25.9%
15 to 17	248	16.9%	905	26.5%
over 18	75	5.1%	1166	34.2%
Total	1471	100.0%	3414	100.0%

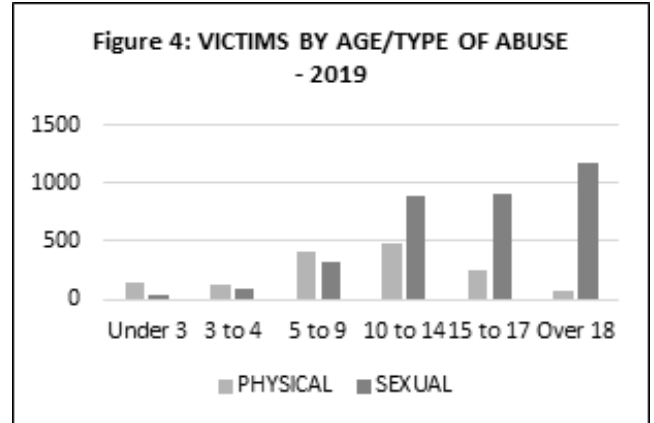


Table 5
VICTIMS BY GENDER AND TYPE OF ABUSE
2019

	PHYSICAL		SEXUAL	
	Count	Percentage	Count	Percentage
Female	671	45.6%	2842	83.2%
Male	788	53.6%	550	16.1%
Unknown	12	0.8%	22	0.6%
Total	1471	100.0%	3414	100.0%

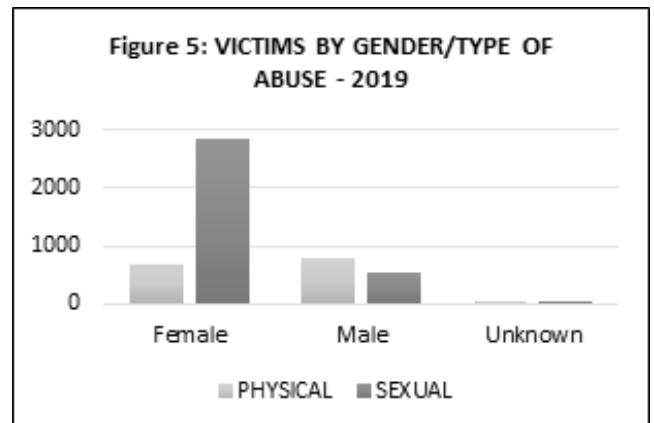


Table 6
VICTIMS BY ETHNICITY AND TYPE OF ABUSE
2019

	PHYSICAL		SEXUAL	
	Count	Percentage	Count	Percentage
All Others	12	0.8%	36	1.1%
Asian	0	0.0%	2	0.1%
Black	48	3.3%	110	3.2%
Chinese	348	23.7%	500	14.6%
Filipino	2	0.1%	3	0.1%
Hispanic	753	51.2%	2022	59.2%
Japanese	0	0.0%	8	0.2%
Pacific Islander	51	3.5%	84	2.5%
Unknown	257	17.5%	649	19.0%
White	1471	100.0%	3414	100.0%
Total	1529	100.0%	3509	100.0%

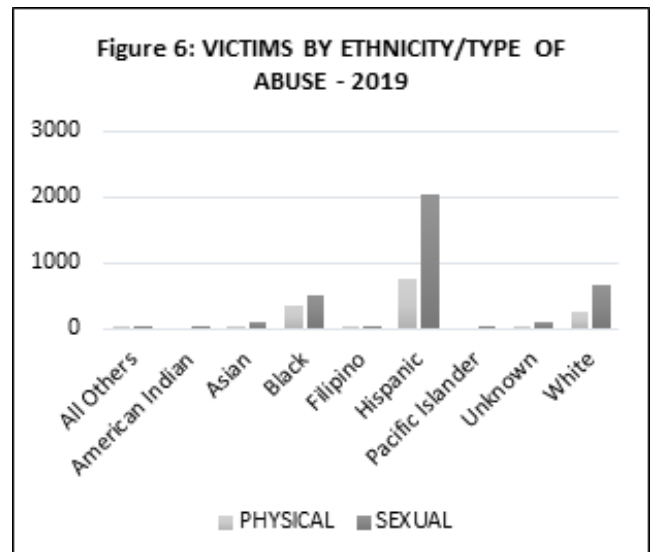




Table 7
SUSPECTS BY AGE AND TYPE OF ABUSE
2019

	PHYSICAL		SEXUAL	
Under 18	34	2.6%	656	19.5%
18 - 24	93	7.0%	555	16.5%
25 - 45	772	58.3%	1008	30.0%
Over 45	426	32.2%	1141	34.0%
Total	1325	100.0%	3360	100.0%

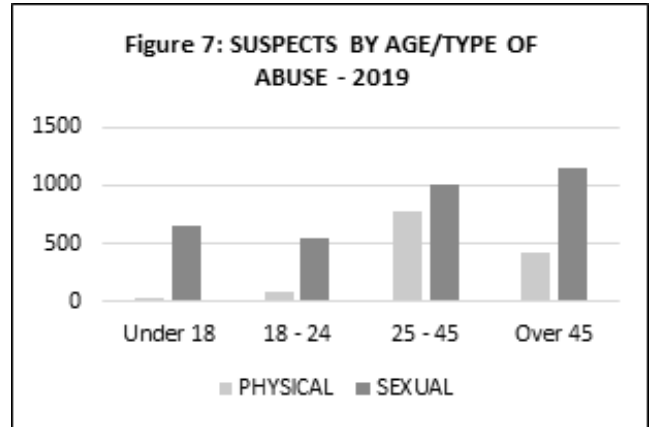


Table 8
SUSPECTS BY GENDER AND TYPE OF ABUSE
2019

	PHYSICAL		SEXUAL	
Female	522	39.4%	237	7.0%
Male	683	51.5%	2878	85.6%
Unknown	121	9.1%	248	7.4%
Total	1326	100.0%	3363	100.0%

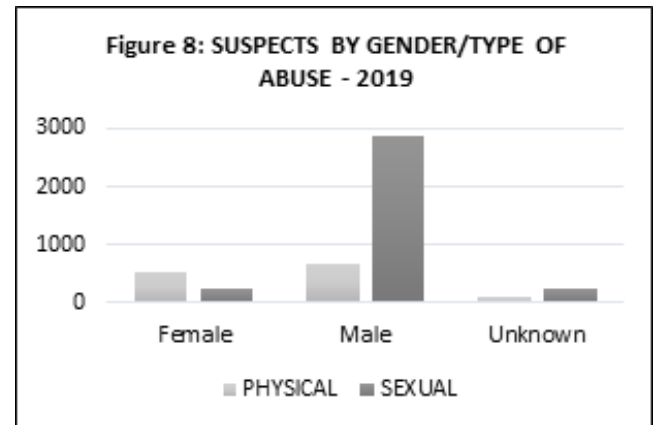
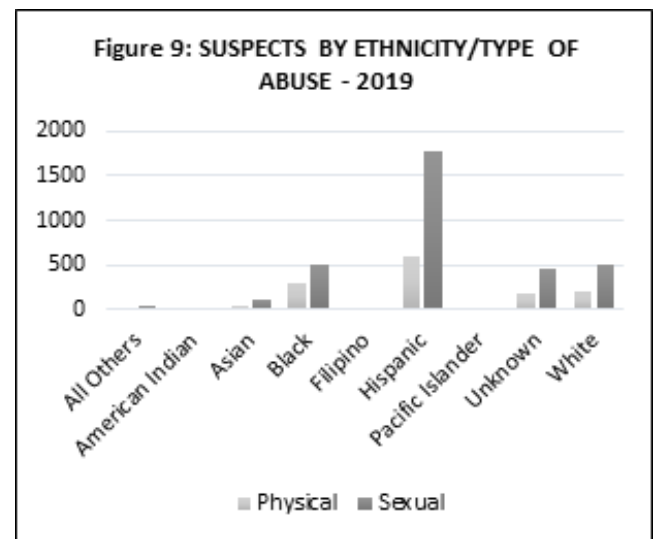


Table 9
SUSPECTS BY ETHNICITY AND TYPE OF ABUSE
2019

	PHYSICAL		SEXUAL	
All Others	7	0.5%	36	1.1%
Am. Indian	1	0.1%	1	0.0%
Asian	46	3.5%	103	3.1%
Black	293	22.1%	501	14.9%
Chinese	3	0.2%	5	0.1%
Filipino	604	45.6%	1766	52.5%
Hispanic	0	0.0%	7	0.2%
Japanese	180	13.6%	446	13.3%
Pacific Islander	192	14.5%	496	14.8%
Unknown	1326	100.0%	3361	100.0%
White	183	13.4%	490	14.4%
Total	1362	100.0%	3407	100.0%





The data contained in the following tables was obtained from LASD's Human Trafficking Task Force (HTTF) and Sexual Assault Felony Enforcement (SAFE) Teams Supervisors.

Table 10

RESCUES - 2019

	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	TOTAL
CSEC	3	8	6	6	9	5	2	39
Adult	1	0	0	1	0	0	1	3
TOTAL	4	8	6	7	9	5	3	42

Table 11

ARRESTS - 2019

	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	TOTAL
Male Sex Buyers	26	4	14	20	8	7	4	83
Human Trafficking Related*	18	11	13	6	20	6	1	75
Internet Crimes Against Children	7	10	3	4	11	3	4	42
Arrested for Other Crimes	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	2
TOTAL	51	25	30	30	39	18	9	202

Table 11a

HUMAN TRAFFICKING RELATED ARRESTS* - 2019

	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	TOTAL
Female Adult Commercial Sex Workers	9	6	3	2	0	2	1	23
Pimps/Traffickers	9	5	10	4	20	4	0	52
TOTAL	18	11	13	6	20	6	1	75

Table 12

SEARCH WARRANTS - 2019

	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	TOTAL
Search Warrants	48	33	37	45	53	49	64	329



GLOSSARY OF LAW ENFORCEMENT TERMS RELATED TO CHILD ABUSE AND ADULT FELONY SEXUAL ASSAULTS

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 through the use of 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.

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 makes

contact with 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.