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Sub-Category D-iv: Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children

COMPENDIUM OF RESEARCH ON VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

1993-2016

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Category D: SOCIAL AND CULTURAL CONTEXT

iv. Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children

2005-DD-BX-0037:	Evaluation of SAGE Project First Offender Prostitution Program
Amount	\$367,960
PI:	Michael Shively
Program Officer:	Karen J. Bachar
Status:	Completed

The First Offender Prostitution Program (FOPP) seeks to reduce the demand for prostitution by educating men about the risks of soliciting commercial sex. Abt Associates evaluated this prosecution diversion program by comparing recidivism for men who were arrested for solicitation in San Francisco and who participated in FOPP with two nonequivalent comparison groups: men arrested for solicitation in San Francisco but who did not participate in the program and men arrested for solicitation in comparison cities. The two primary goals of this study are to: (1) compare the recidivism rates for program participants and non-participant comparisons; and (2) estimate the costs savings from diversion. The primary data source will be criminal records for all men (FOPP participants and nonparticipants) arrested for solicitation in San Francisco over the history of the program, obtained through the California Criminal Justice Statistics Center. Abt will also collect similar data for males arrested for solicitation in 2–4 comparison cities (the selection of which will be finalized at the beginning of the project). For the multivariate recidivism analysis Abt will utilize as statistical controls other information available from the criminal records, including criminal justice involvement prior to the arrest that led to FOPP participation and demographic information. The research team will analyze the recidivism data. To limit the effect of omitted variables, Abt will consider only California cities as potential comparison sites, and only those cities with stable enforcement environments. To investigate which program elements are most likely responsible for any program effect, Abt will conduct qualitative research of the FOPP. This participant-observation research will be supplemented by analysis of the various survey instruments used by the Standing Against Global Exploitation (SAGE, the sponsor of FOPP) over its ten-year history. Finally, Abt will produce estimates of the costs associated with the diversion program and the associated savings to the criminal justice system in San Francisco.

Product : NCJ# 221894

Final Report on the Evaluation of the First Offender Prostitution Program (2008) – Michael Shively, Sarah Kuck Jalbert , Ryan Kling, William Rhodes, Peter Finn, Chris Flygare, Laura Tierney, Dana Hunt, David Squires, Christina Dyous, Kristin Wheeler

This report presents the methodology and findings of an evaluation of San Francisco's First Offender Prostitution Program (FOPP), which is designed to reduce the demand for commercial sex and human trafficking by educating men arrested for soliciting prostitutes ("johns") about the adverse consequences of prostitution. The process phase of the evaluation found that the FOPP has been well-conceived and based upon a logically sound model, and it has been implemented as intended. Further, it has been organizationally stable and sustainable. Findings from the outcome phase of the evaluation show that the FOPP has substantially reduced recidivism among men arrested for soliciting prostitutes. The program has been cost-effective; it has operated for over 12 years without any cost to taxpayers while generating nearly \$1 million for recovery programs that target providers of commercial sex. The program is also transferable, as shown by its successful replication in 12 other U.S. sites and adapted in some form in just over 25 additional U.S. sites over the past decade. Suggestions for program improvement include adding curriculum elements that build skills that enable men to find ways to meet their needs more positively than through commercial sex. Other suggestions are to add aftercare and conduct web-based reverse stings in responding to changes in the commercial sex market. Suggestions are also offered for future research and the dispensing of practical information on "john" schools to those planning or implementing such programs. Evaluation data were collected through site visits, police "ride alongs," interviews, program documents, administrative records, structured observation of "john" school classes, pre-class and post-class surveys of participants, and "john" criminal histories. Included are 33 tables, 8 figures, a 322-item bibliography, and appended evaluation instruments and protocols.

Additional NCJ Citation: 222451, 250306

2005-LX-FX-0001:	The Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children in NYC: A Population Assessment and Participatory Project Evaluation
Amount:	\$520,000
PI:	Mike Rempel, Ric Curtis
Program Officer:	Karen J. Bachar
Status:	Completed

The Center for Court Innovation and John Jay College of Criminal Justice will conduct a population assessment and formative evaluation to provide information and a model to respond effectively to the commercial sexual exploitation of children (CSEC). The goals of the research are to: (1) develop a better understanding of the CSEC population, (2) assist the Coalition to Address the Sexual Exploitation of Children (CASEC) in assessing, monitoring and improving capacity and performance, and (3) institutionalizing and disseminating lessons and best practices. The applicant will conduct a multimethod study that will estimate the size, characteristics and needs of the CSEC population through the use of respondent-driven sampling, Geographical Information System technology, and direct observation in the field. Two hundred youth who engage in child prostitution will be recruited and interviewed over a 9-month period. The applicant will use action-research methods to conduct a formative evaluation of the New York City CSEC demonstration program. Action-research methods will be used to engage the CASEC collaboration partners in establishing criteria and systems for ongoing self-evaluation and improvement. The applicant will work closely with the CASEC to document the program's implementation and operational processes, and to identify, define, disseminate, and institutionalize best practices. This will include review of program documentation; interviews with staff, partners, and the CASEC residential clients; assessment of data and information-sharing needs; identification of performance measures; and establishment of mechanisms for feedback on performance to the program.

Product: NCJ# 225082/ 225083/ 225084

Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children in New York City: Executive Summary, Volume One & Volume Two (2008) – R. Curtis, K. Terry, M. Dank, K. Dombrowski, B. Khan, A. Muslim, M. Labriola, M. Rempel

The study goals were to conduct a population estimate of commercial sexual exploitation of children (CSEC) in New York City and complete a formative evaluation of efforts to address this problem. For the population estimate researchers used Respondent Driven Sampling (RDS) to recruit and interview a statistically representative sample of exploited youth in NYC taking advantage of group social connections to build a sample pool. Efforts resulted in a better understanding of the CSEC population, particularly its size, characteristics, needs, and geographic spread in New York City. For the evaluation researchers examined CASEC's goals, operations, strengths, weaknesses, and obstacles to success. The evaluation found a number of successes but also a number of obstacles that impeded the program's goals. Areas of impediment (and lessons learned) are related to operational leadership, external policies, informed decision-making, and sustainability. Areas of strength (best practices) include the use of a multidisciplinary task force of stakeholders and an inclusive, coalition-based approach.

2005-MU-MU-0003:	Evaluation of OJJDP FY 2003 Discretionary Fund Project
Amount:	\$428,837 plus FY 2007 supplement of \$25,052
PI:	Marcia Cohen
Program Officer:	Karen J. Bachar
Status:	Completed

Development Services Group, Inc. (DSG) will evaluate the LIFESKILLS and Early Intervention Prostitution Program (EIPP) operated by the SAGE Project, Inc. These programs operate on the assumption that girls and women involved in prostitution should be treated as victims, rather than criminals. They focus on rehabilitation through case management services. The evaluation seeks to examine the circumstances that lead girls and women to become involved in prostitution and the effects of the intervention model. When completed, the evaluation will provide evidence concerning the effectiveness of both programs and provide policymakers with insight regarding an alternative justice system response to prostitution. This research will utilize a combined quantitative–qualitative methodology conducted in three phases. Phase I includes qualitative, formative research intended to identify and operationalize specific outcome variables. Phase II proposes a quasi-experimental nonequivalent comparison group design to establish a causal relationship between the program and various outcomes, including a return to prostitution, education, employment, stability, and other measures of well-being. Phase III includes a range of generative qualitative efforts designed to identify factors that may serve as salient variables for future evaluation, and to develop program logic models. The LIFESKILLS sample will be roughly 68 (45 treatment, 23 comparison) with 50 percent of the girls

being Asian and the rest mixed-race or African-American. The EIPP sample will yield approximately 129 (84 treatment, 45 comparison) with the majority of the participants being white.

Product: NCJ# 234464

Final Report on the Evaluation of the SAGE Project's LIFESKILLS and GRACE Programs (2011) – Marcia I. Cohen, Mark C. Edberg, Stephen V. Gies

The SAGE Project is a nonprofit organization that operates two commercial sexual exploitation (CSE) intervention programs: LIFESKILLS and GRACE. Both programs operate from the philosophical approach of harm reduction, which emphasizes peer education and skills development. Participants in LIFESKILLS are younger (under 18) and are either involved in CSE or considered at high risk for sexual exploitation. The LIFESKILLS program offers case management, support groups, and referral services. Length of stay for LIFESKILLS girls ranges from 4 to 14 months. GRACE participants are older (adults) and have been arrested for prostitution. Most GRACE program clients are court-ordered to participate for a minimum of 25 hours of group services. This study used a four-phase participatory evaluation design that employed both quantitative and qualitative components. The two qualitative components (phases 1 and 4) used interviews with staff and program participants to assist in operationalizing variables for the evaluation, identifying process and outcome measures, and developing program logic models. The quantitative evaluation followed a quasi-experimental, nonequivalent group design to assess a set of outcomes (phase 2). The principal data sources included baseline and follow-up surveys and official arrest records. The process evaluation (phase 3) integrated both quantitative and qualitative methods to assess whether the program was well-designed and implemented as intended and involved an examination of services, management, staffing, information systems, and case files. The key findings: 1. The SAGE Project succeeded in reducing contact with the criminal justice system of both the LIFESKILLS and GRACE groups. 2. Girls and young women typically track along one of four risk-related trajectories, on the basis of whether they are (a) from “risk saturated” communities, (b) from troubled suburban families, (c) from immigrant families, or (d) becoming involved proactively, without (at first) many of the overwhelming risk factors present for the other trajectories. 3. Although a LIFESKILLS curriculum with a good theoretical foundation exists, fidelity to a model is lacking, and it has not been sufficiently formalized, operationalized, and documented. PDF Link: <https://www.ncjrs.gov/pdffiles1/nij/grants/234464.pdf>

2006-JE-FX-0006:	Process Evaluation of OJJDP’s CSEC Program in Atlanta
Amount:	\$451,864
PI:	Mary Finn
Program Officer:	Karen J. Bachar
Status:	Completed

The grantee is conducting a formative evaluation of OJJDP’s Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children Demonstration Project in Fulton County/Atlanta. The applicant plans to use an empowerment evaluation strategy to achieve four objectives. First, this project will gather data (using interviews, field observation, and focus groups with CSE victims and members of the Collaborative) on the nature and extent of CSEC, in order to better assess the needs of CSEC victims, as well as the operational capacity and needs of the Collaborative. Second, this project will review, refine, and update the Collaborative’s original goals and objectives, and using a logic model, will identify measurable outcomes to evaluate ongoing progress. Third, this evaluation will review the Collaborative’s current data management system to assess its provision of performance measures and identify mechanisms to improve the quality of data collection to enhance sharing of information across agencies. As well, on-going technical assistance will be provided to enhance data collection to ensure that it informs the Collaborative of its progress. Finally, this project will coordinate with the evaluation of New York’s demonstration project to identify model strategies and practices to address the problem of CSEC and to disseminate information for use by practitioners, policy makers, researchers and the public.

Product: NCJ# 226610

Evaluation of the Demonstration Project To Address Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children in Atlanta-Fulton County (2009) – M. Finn, B. Sims Blackwell, L. Jackson, J. Wolk, M. Oakley

This study had three primary goals: (1) to document the nature and extent of commercial sexual exploitation of children in Atlanta-Fulton County; (2) to conduct a process evaluation of the Atlanta-Fulton County’s demonstration project, including its environment and context, design and implementation, program operations, and events that impacted the project’s functioning and outcomes; and (3) to identify and coordinate the findings and experiences with the New York evaluation site (Part III). This study also sought to move beyond estimates of commercial sexual

exploitation and identify the nature and extent to which it is occurring in the city of Atlanta and Fulton County. The researchers' findings indicate that the population of CSE youth coming into contact with police, or being served by the demonstration project and licensed service providers, are on average between 14 and 15 years of age, African American, and female. Risk factors identified in the emerging literature are at play here: conflicts at home, prior sexual abuse, reported as running away or missing, prior contact with justice agencies, financial needs, and truancy/dropping out of school.

For an index of all grants, go to <https://www.ncjrs.gov/pdffiles1/nij/223572/223572-grants-index.pdf>.