

The Family Advocacy Outreach Network

e-news

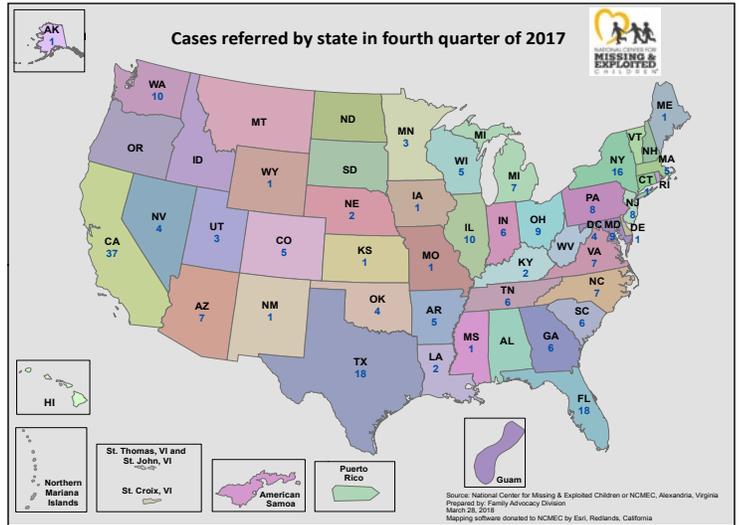
March 28, 2018



Hello Family Advocacy Outreach Network Participants!

Here are some resources to help keep you informed of current trends and materials available concerning missing and/or sexually exploited children. NCMEC thanks all of the participants who have helped provide valuable therapeutic services to families and victims. Your assistance and dedication is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,
 Family Advocacy Division
 National Center for Missing & Exploited Children®



Case types supported by the Family Advocacy Division in fourth quarter of 2017:

Case type	Supported in the quarter	Case type	Supported in the quarter
Missing children	135	Sexually exploited children	148
Family abduction	23	Online enticement	26
Nonfamily abduction	1	Child victims of pornography	66
Endangered runaway	107	Child victims of sex trafficking	40
Lost, injured or otherwise missing	3	Other sexual assaults/crimes	16
Section 5779	1	Total of both case types	283
		Team HOPE peer support outreach	757

Planning for National Crime Victims' Rights Week April 8 to 14, 2018.

Adapted summary: This year, the U.S. Department of Justice's Office for Victims of Crime will commemorate NCVRW the second week of April, observing the 2018 theme of **Expand the Circle: Reach All Victims**. This theme emphasizes the importance of inclusion in victim services and addresses how the crime victims field can better ensure every crime victim has access to services and support. It also emphasizes how professionals, organizations and communities can work in tandem to reach all victims. This year's [NCVRW Resource Guide](#) contains a vibrant array of [theme artwork](#) organizations can incorporate into their own outreach materials. View the [2018 NCVRW sample proclamation](#), and use it to inspire your community and raise awareness about victims' rights.

[New tip sheet from KidSmartz® available for download.](#)

Adapted summary: Helping children understand they have the right to "Tell people 'NO!'" if anyone tries to hurt them or touch them in a way to make them feel uncomfortable is an important, though sometimes difficult, task. But establishing boundaries around touch is integral to helping kids stay safer. A new tip sheet for parents is available on the KidSmartz website to help guide discussions with children and other adults when setting norms and boundaries.

Kudos of the quarter: Reflections from the survivor retreat.

Congratulations to the organizers who attended to every detail with care and concern during a groundbreaking retreat held this year. And we extend a special thank you to our FAON participants, Christy Dzikowicz (left) from the Canadian Centre for Child Protection and Rebecca Bailey (right) with Transitioning Families, for their work in planning and facilitating this important survivor retreat. There were many lessons to be learned, and we are honored to share some impressions with our FAON participants so they may assist other survivors.

Ten survivors whose sexual abuse images were distributed online gathered for this first of its kind retreat. The goal was simple: to provide an opportunity for these brave young women to meet others who share a similar experience and learn from them. We were blown away at the sheer courage and resiliency in this group. Their strength, grace and warrior-like mentality helped us learn many valuable lessons!

Most importantly, a victim-centered approach must be survivor-led. We learned many of our assumptions about what survivors need, weren't necessarily informed by survivors. Thus our current victim-centered approaches to media, legislation and judicial systems still need work. Throughout the retreat, survivors shared that while they were forced to stay quiet about the abuse, they felt they were continually silenced or not consulted, considered or heard after the abuse was uncovered.

One of the main points identified during this retreat was survivors need each other; there is power inherent in the collective voice.

Additionally, it was ascertained there are many levels to healing. The impact of this discovery is profoundly important for the helping professionals involved in these cases. Many of the survivors noted they had self-harmed, abused drugs and/or alcohol, and had suicidal ideation, which only underscores the fact their needs are vast and the professionals helping them need to do so in an informed manner. Also, it is important to note the survivors expressed their healing occurred over time and professionals providing support need to consider the many developmental milestones survivors may experience. Many "firsts" will be experienced and the long-term effects of each can have lasting impacts on a survivor's resiliency.

And last, but certainly not least, is the lesson that self-care is extremely important. As facilitators and helpers, we must deliberately take care of ourselves or we cannot help others. This emotional work is real, profound and can be long-lasting.

Below please find a summary and link to the press release about this survivor retreat.

[Survivors mobilize for the first time to make change for victims of child sexual abuse imagery.](#)

Adapted summary: For the first time in history, child pornography survivors from across North America gathered to discuss the profound worldwide impact caused by the creation and distribution of their child sex abuse images. Organized by the Canadian Centre for Child Protection and National Center for Missing & Exploited Children, this inaugural meeting brought together 10 survivors who are part of the first generation of child sex abuse survivors whose victimization was recorded and shared online. Survivors banded together to share experiences and create a force to challenge the inadequate responses to the prevalence of child sex abuse images on the internet. One outcome of the retreat was the establishment of an action group focusing on bringing the collective voice of these victims to the international stage.

[NPR's series about the hidden epidemic of sexual assault.](#)

Adapted summary: In January 2018, National Public Radio or NPR released the final piece in their special series, *Abused and Betrayed: People with intellectual disabilities and an epidemic of sexual assault*. This powerful series brings forth stories and findings from a yearlong investigation into sexual violence and people with intellectual disabilities.



[New article in the *Journal of the American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry*.](#)

Adapted summary: A recently published article, “The Dissociative Subtype of Posttraumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) Among Adolescents: Co-Occurring PTSD, Depersonalization/Derealization, and Other Dissociation Symptoms,” examined the co-occurrence of posttraumatic stress disorder and dissociation in a clinical sample of 3,081 trauma-exposed, treatment-seeking adolescents 12 to 16 years old from the National Child Traumatic Stress Network Core Data Set. Authors evaluated evidence for the depersonalization/derealization dissociative subtype of PTSD as defined by the DSM-5 and then examined a broader set of dissociation symptoms. The authors identified two models, which provided new information about the specific ways PTSD and dissociation co-occur and illuminated some differences between adult and adolescent trauma symptom expression. A dissociative subtype of PTSD can be distinguished from PTSD alone in adolescents, but assessing a wider range of dissociative symptoms is needed to fully characterize adolescent traumatic stress responses.

[New treatment manual *Trauma and Grief Component Therapy for Adolescents: A Modular Approach to Treating Traumatized and Bereaved Youth*.](#)

Adapted summary: This manual is grounded in adolescent developmental theory and a modular, assessment-driven treatment addressing the needs of adolescents facing trauma, bereavement and accompanying developmental disruption. Created by the developers of the University of California, Los Angeles’ PTSD Reaction Index and Persistent Complex Bereavement Disorder Checklist, this manual links clinicians with cutting-edge research in traumatic stress and bereavement, as well as ongoing training opportunities. This innovative guide offers teen-friendly coping skills, handouts and specialized therapeutic exercises to help reduce distress and promote adaptive developmental progression. Sessions can be flexibly tailored to group or individual treatment modalities; school-based, community mental health or private practice settings; and different timeframes and specific client needs. Drawing on multidimensional grief theory, the treatment guide offers a valuable toolkit for psychologists, psychiatrists, counselors and others who work with bereaved and traumatized adolescents.

[Bill enabling prosecutors, victims to pursue websites that host sex traffickers heads to White House.](#) Mar. 21, 2018. *The Washington Post*.

Adapted summary: The Senate recently passed a bill, already approved by the House, enabling prosecutors to pursue websites hosting advertisements for prostitution. The bill, awaiting President Trump’s signature, was hailed by anti-sex-trafficking groups and law enforcement as an important step in fighting online prostitution of teenagers. Senators passed the bill 97 to 2, without amendments, meaning it can be immediately signed into law by the president. The bill would amend the [Communications Decency Act](#), which websites such as Backpage.com have invoked as immunity from criminal and civil actions when victims of online sex trafficking have tried to stop them from hosting ads for male and female sex workers, some of whom are teenagers.

[How OJJDP is combating the sexual exploitation and trafficking of children.](#)

Adapted summary: Every January, communities across the country observe [National Slavery and Human Trafficking Prevention Month](#) with programs and activities aimed at preventing and ending all forms of human trafficking. [OJJDP’s efforts to address the commercial sexual exploitation of children](#) include research and programs, training and technical assistance, and resources and publications. The Office’s [Mentoring Child Victims of Commercial Sexual Exploitation and Domestic Minor Sex Trafficking initiative](#) provides funding to help organizations develop or enhance their mentoring capacity, facilitate outreach efforts, and increase the availability of direct services for this vulnerable population. To further ensure trafficked children receive the critical services necessary to help them achieve long-term holistic recovery, OJJDP is developing trauma-informed, victim-centered resources. OJJDP released [Shining Light on the Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children: A Toolkit To Build Understanding](#) in partnership with the Wichita State University Center for Combating Human Trafficking and [MANY](#). The toolkit provides information about a variety of topics related to human trafficking, with a focus on mentoring for victims of commercial sexual exploitation. In one easy-to-access location, users can find information about emerging research and best practices; implications for practice at the individual, program and community levels; and additional materials for further study.

[New webinar recording available, “Engaging a Sexually Traumatized Youth in Therapy.”](#)

Adapted summary: In a webinar, available from the National Child Traumatic Stress Network Learning Center, a 15-year-old boy, Adam, is referred to therapy after several weeks of unexplained sickness. Adam has always excelled in school despite having been sexually abused by his soccer coach in his past. About a year ago, Adam’s grades and sports performance started to slip when an adult female tutor became sexually abusive and threatened him if he reported her. Adam was already seeing a therapist to work on recent difficulties in school and conflicts with his parents. As he attempts to end therapy, he reveals for the first time that he is experiencing current sexual abuse.

[The National Human Trafficking Hotline announces 24/7 chat and text capabilities in both English and Spanish.](#)

Adapted summary: Previously, human trafficking survivors and people reporting tips could call, email or use a webform to access the National Human Trafficking Hotline. Around-the-clock texting and chat capabilities now provide additional discreet avenues for survivors to get connected with an extensive network of support throughout the U.S. This modernization is a critical step in allowing survivors to reach out through a comfortable mode of communication. This is especially crucial for young people experiencing trafficking, who are often more accustomed to texting and chatting than speaking over the telephone. These technologies also offer a safer way for victims and survivors to get connected with trained hotline advocates, especially in situations when their traffickers are nearby.

[Thorn releases findings from new report *Survivor Insights: The Role of Technology in Domestic Minor Sex Trafficking*.](#)

Adapted summary: To strategically inform technology initiatives for combating domestic minor sex trafficking or DMST, Thorn partnered with Dr. Vanessa Bouché at Texas Christian University to survey survivors about their experiences. The survey focused on understanding what role technology played in a victim’s recruitment into, time while in and exit from DMST. Two central themes emerged from the survey responses: technology is playing an increasing role in grooming and controlling victims of DMST and, while less familiar forms of DMST emerged in the landscape, childhood abuse and neglect were common experiences for DMST survivors. The full report is available [here](#).

[New project to identify risk factors for sexual exploitation of children.](#)

Adapted summary: A new project being undertaken by faculty members at Penn State aims to examine the incidence rates and risk factors for commercial sexual exploitation of children in Pennsylvania. This one-year project will provide evidence about the extent of commercial sexual exploitation of children or CSEC in the state and differences in risk factors among rural and urban victims. The research will provide the first-ever, multi-county understanding of CSEC incidence, type and factors placing youth at risk in the state. The researchers will analyze case management data from PA Children and Youth Services from several counties. The researchers will also compare rural and urban CSEC rates, as well as identify differences in risk factors based on rural or urban residents so prevention efforts can be targeted.

NCMEC releases new data and resources about online enticement.

Adapted summary: The National Center for Missing & Exploited Children® or NCMEC analyzed 5,863 online enticement reports from 2015. These reports demonstrated someone enticing a child online can have a variety of motives and tactics to: entice a child to share sexually explicit images; arrange a meeting in person for sexual purposes; engage the child in a sexual conversation or role-play; or, in some instances, sell or trade the child’s sexual images to other offenders. To learn more about this in-depth analysis of online enticement and get tips to protect your children online, visit [MissingKids.org/onlineenticement](#).

[WHO publishes new guidelines about Responding to Children and Adolescents Who Have Been Sexually Abused.](#)

Adapted summary: The World Health Organization or WHO has published new clinical guidelines [Responding to children and adolescents who have been sexually abused](#) aimed at helping frontline health workers, primarily from low resource settings, in providing evidence-based, quality, trauma-informed care to survivors. The guidelines emphasize the importance of promoting safety, offering choices, and respecting the wishes and autonomy of children and adolescents. They cover recommendations for post-rape care and mental health to approaches minimizing distress in the process of taking medical histories, conducting examinations and documenting findings.
