

Forensic Health Services

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Director of Forensic Health Services

June 6, 2022



Program Overview

<https://vimeo.com/126501517>



Stock internet photo

Overview of Services

- **Forensic Medical Evidentiary Exams 24/7/365**

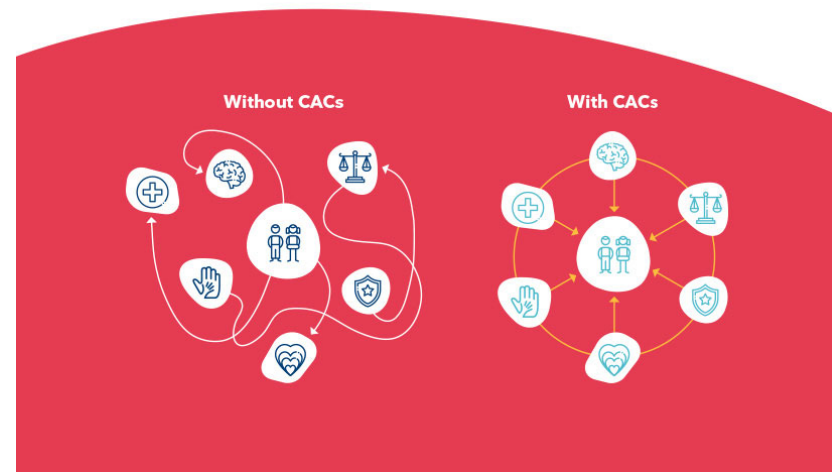
- Sexual Assault
- Domestic Violence
- Elder Abuse
- Human Trafficking
- Gang Violence

- **Child Advocacy Center (CAC)**

- Forensic Interviews
- Case Coordination/Advocacy (CAP)
- Onsite Child Trauma Therapy (CAP)
- Only North County Human Trafficking “Soft Room” Option
- Community Education/Expert Witness Testimony

- **Trauma Recovery Center (TRC)**

- No Cost Clinical Therapy and Case Coordination for trauma victims



<https://vimeo.com/263000974>

<https://www.nationalchildrensalliance.org/media-room/nca-digital-media-kit/fact-sheet/#:~:text=Types%20of%20NCA%20Members%2FNCA,on%20cases%20of%20child%20abuse>

Multi-Disciplinary Team (MDT)

MDT Partners

- Law Enforcement
- Child Welfare
- Prosecution
- Victim Advocates
- Mental Health
- Forensic Interviewers
- Medical Providers
- Administrative and Program Staff
- Community Partners

MDT Benefits

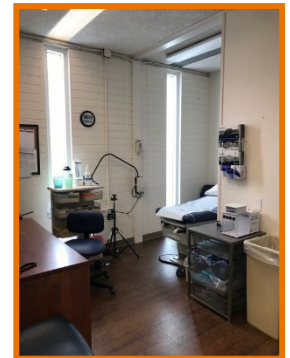
- Clear communication
- Sharing of information for informed decisions
- Fewer cases falling through the cracks
- Preventing duplication of effort
- Reducing number of child interviews
- More kids get medical exams
- More kids get referrals to therapy
- More cases get prosecuted
- Greater caregiver satisfaction

Locations

- These services will be provided at
 - Palomar Health
 - Vista (Temporary Location)
 - San Diego Downtown Family Justice Center
 - Santee Sheriff Station
 - After hours/weekends/holidays Acute pediatric exams at Rady Children’s Hospital
 - UCSD Student Health In an emergency situation, authorized by law enforcement, exams may be performed at offsite facilities such as, hospitals, skilled nursing facilities, police and sheriff departments, jails, morgues, or alternate offsite exams.



<https://vimeo.com/527610123/8808410d83>



Department Updates

- 2017
 - Expanded Forensic Medical Exam Capacity
 - Domestic Violence, Elder Abuse, Human Trafficking, Strangulation
 - Reinstated pediatric acute medical evidentiary exams
 - Began serving all of San Diego County as Centralized program
- 2018
 - Added specialty child/family case coordination
 - Added Soft Room Services for Human Trafficking
- 2019
 - New Medical Director
 - Added non-acute medical evidentiary exams
 - Added Forensic NP to support Medical Director
 - CARES award



Department Updates



- 2020
 - Palomar Health Response to Sexual Assault Published in Journal of Emergency Medicine
 - Published Nationally Recognized Workbook on Strangulation
 - Added on-site trauma therapy for children and families
- 2021
 - Added New Child Trauma Therapy Program (AT)
 - Added Specialty Case Coordination
 - CSEC/Human Trafficking
 - Military
 - Specialty Human Trafficking Forensic Interviews
 - Updated Child Victim Witness Protocol
 - **Received National Re-Accreditation for Child Advocacy Center**
 - Moved out of Fig
 - Victim Resource Navigation
 - Emergency Expense Fund

Palomar Health Child Advocacy Center

- National Accreditation
- Forensic Interviews
- Specialty Forensic Medical Exams
- Case Coordination
- Specialty Case Coordinator for Military and Human Trafficking
- Trauma Therapy



Needs Assessment

- 43 questions designed to learn about respondents' knowledge and experience with the PH CAC, CSEC victims, and barriers to serving this community
- Distributed to a variety of agencies such as law enforcement, Child Welfare Services, Palomar Health, Camp Pendleton, and other relevant community providers
- The survey was launched on March 5, 2021 and was available until April 2, 2021. A total of 86 surveys were completed.

Barriers for CSEC Victims

TABLE 6. BARRIERS FOR FAMILIES/YOUTH IN ACCESSING SERVICES AT THE PH CAC (N= 83)	
BARRIER	PERCENT AGREE
STIGMA, SHAME, FEAR	87%
FEAR OF HAVING THE CHILD/YOUTH REMOVED BY CWS	81%
FAMILY IS UNAWARE THAT THE PH CAC IS A SERVICE PROVIDER	76%
GENERAL MISTRUST OF SYSTEM/AGENCIES TRYING TO HELP FAMILY/CHILD	75%
FEAR OF DEPORTATION	72%
FINANCIAL (THINKS IT WILL COST MONEY FOR THE EXAM)	69%
TRANSPORTATION (DOES NOT HAVE RELIABLE TRANSPORTATION)	66%
LACK OF CONTINUATION OF SERVICES (FAILED PROMISES, PREVIOUS ENCOUNTERS WITH SYSTEM/AGENCIES WORKING TO HELP FAMILY/CHILD)	51%
FAMILY/CHILD DOES NOT CONSIDER THAT THE SERVICE IS NECESSARY OR HELPFUL	48%

- Top identified barriers to CAC services for CSEC youth and their families:
 - *Stigma, shame, fear*
 - *Fear of having the child/youth removed by CWS*
 - *Unaware that the CAC is a service provider*
 - *General mistrust of system/agencies trying to help family/child*

Specialized Protocol

Objectives

- To more accurately identify children experiencing or exposed to commercial sexual exploitation (CSEC), human trafficking (HT), and/or child sex abuse material (CSAM)
- To specialize and increase access to Palomar CAC services to better support victims of CSEC, HT, and/or CSAM
- To ensure continuity of services for CSEC/HT/CSAM victims through a coordinated multidisciplinary team response and inter-agency collaboration within San Diego County

PALOMAR HEALTH
Forensic Health Services

CAC CSEC/HT/CSAM Guidelines

1. Objectives

- a) To more accurately identify children experiencing or exposed to commercial sexual exploitation (CSEC), human trafficking (HT), and/or child sex abuse material (CSAM)
- b) To specialize and increase access to Palomar CAC services to better support victims of CSEC, HT, and/or CSAM
- c) To ensure continuity of services for CSEC/HT/CSAM victims through a coordinated multidisciplinary team response and inter-agency collaboration within San Diego County

2. Definitions

- a) **Abuse Treatment (AT) Program:** the Abuse Treatment Program at the Palomar Health CAC provides free and comprehensive psychotherapy services to children victimized by abuse and/or neglect as trauma
- b) **Child Abuse Program (CAP):** The Child Abuse Program (CAP) is a Palomar Health-specific term that applies to the team responsible for multidisciplinary evaluation of alleged child abuse and cases suspicious for child endangerment.
- c) **Child Sex Abuse Material (CSAM):** any visual depiction of sexually explicit conduct involving a minor (persons less than 18 years old) ([DOJ](#))
- d) **Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children (CSEC) Interagency Protocol:** the CSEC Interagency Protocol fosters collaboration and coordination among agencies to improve the capacity to identify CSEC victims and provide safety and services for them and their families/caregivers, as appropriate ([CSEC Interagency Protocol, 2019](#))
- e) **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 (including monetary and non-monetary benefits) given or received by any person. CSEC also includes situations where a child, whether or not at the direction of any other person, engages in sexual activity in exchange for anything of value, which includes non-monetary things such as food, shelter, drugs, or protection from any person ([QJDP](#))
- f) **Human Trafficking (HT):** The recruitment, harboring, transportation, provision, or obtaining of a person for labor or services, through the use of force, fraud, or coercion for the purpose of subjection to involuntary servitude, peonage, debt bondage, or slavery ([TVPA, 2000](#))
- g) **San Diego County Child Victim Witness Protocol (CV-WP):** created by San Diego county agencies and organizations responsible for the community protection of children, the CV-WP establishes standards and procedures for ensuring children exposed to abuse receive the most effective and appropriate protection possible
- h) **Sex Trafficking:** a form of human trafficking in which a commercial sex act is induced by force, fraud, or coercion, or in which the person induced to perform such act has not attained 18 years of age ([TVPA, 2000](#))
- i) **Soft room:** an alternative to an interrogation room where victims of human trafficking can be interviewed and offered services
- j) **Trafficking Victims Protection Act (TVPA):** The TVPA (2000) established methods of prosecuting traffickers, preventing human trafficking, and protecting victims and survivors of trafficking

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Barriers for San Diego Military Families

BARRIERS FOR MILITARY FAMILIES/CLIENTS IN ACCESSING SERVICES AT THE PH CAC (N= 59)	
BARRIER	PERCENT AGREE
STIGMA, SHAME, FEAR	85%
FEAR OF LOSS OF FINANCIAL/MILITARY SUPPORT/MILITARY CAREER	80%
FEAR OF CENSURE FROM OTHER MILITARY FAMILIES/COMMUNITY	78%
FEAR OF REPRIMAND FROM MILITARY LEADERSHIP	78%
FEAR OF HAVING THE CHILD/YOUTH REMOVED BY CWS	64%
FAMILY IS UNAWARE OF PH CAC SERVICES	58%
FEAR OF LOSS OF HOUSING/LIABILITY WHEN IN FOREIGN COUNTRY AND/OR BEING TRANSFERRED	51%
FEAR BY THE VICTIM THAT A MILITARY PROTECTION ORDER WOULD HARM FUTURE CHANCES AT RECONCILIATION	51%
GENERAL MISTRUST OF SYSTEM/AGENCIES TRYING TO HELP THE FAMILY/CHILD	51%
MILITARY REPRESENTATIVE(S) UNAWARE OF PH CAC SERVICES AND/OR FAMILY'S ELIGIBILITY FOR PH CAC SERVICES	49%
FINANCIAL (FAMILY/CHILD THINKS IT WILL COST MONEY FOR THE EXAM)	44%
TRANSPORTATION (FAMILY/CHILD DOES NOT HAVE RELIABLE TRANSPORTATION)	37%
LACK OF CONTINUATION OF SERVICES (FAILED PROMISES, PREVIOUS ENCOUNTERS WITH SYSTEM/AGENCIES WORKING TO HELP THE FAMILY/CHILD)	36%
FEAR OF DEPORTATION	29%

Top identified barriers to Palomar Health CAC services for military families and clients:

- *Stigma, shame, fear*
- *Fear of loss of financial/military support/military career*
- *Fear of censure from other military families/community*
- *Fear of reprimand from military leadership*
- Other lessons:
 - Need for outreach and education on PH CAC services and service eligibility

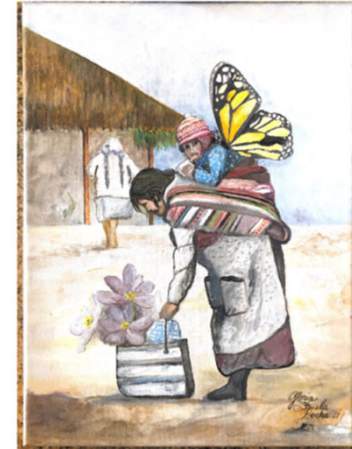
Specialty Protocol and Case Management

- CAC-Military Case Coordinator Position
- Specialty guidelines for CAC-Military Program
 - Screening
 - Information sharing
 - Referral sources
 - Military terminology
 - And more

MPO	Military Protective Order
MSC	Medical Service Corps
MTF	Military treatment facility
NCA	National Children's Alliance
NCIS	Naval Criminal Investigative Service
NCO	Noncommissioned Officer
NPR	Non-Participatory Report
OCONUS	Outside the continental United States
PEDS	Acute and Non-Acute Forensic Medical Exam
PH CAC	Palomar Health Child Advocacy Center
PMO	Provost Marshal's Office

Child Trauma Therapy Services

- Psychotherapy and/or culturally-centered therapy
- Short Term Trauma Therapy (TF-CBT, CFTSI)
 - Up to 16 Sessions
- Short Term Music and Art Therapy
 - Up to 16 Sessions
- Crisis intervention
- Group counseling
- Case management
- Treatment plan meetings with non-offending parents/caregivers
- Transportation
- Community Outreach
- Support for Non-Offending Caregivers and Siblings
- Assistance and advisement with California Victim Compensation Board Claims



Palomar Health Trauma Recovery Center (TRC)

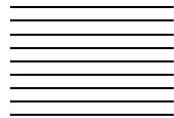
- The first Adult Trauma Recovery Center in San Diego County
 - Short Term Trauma Based Psychotherapy
 - Case Coordination
 - Psychiatrist
 - Referral for TBI/ABI to outpatient rehab
 - Neuropsychology
 - Trauma Advocate Peer Program

Palomar Health's SART Protocol Published in the Journal of Emergency Medicine



The Journal of Emergency Medicine, Vol. 59, No. 6, pp. 964–974, 2020
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0736-4679/\$ - see front matter

<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jemermed.2020.07.047>



Violence: Recognition, Management and Prevention

EMERGENCY DEPARTMENT MANAGEMENT OF THE SEXUAL ASSAULT VICTIM IN THE COVID ERA: A MODEL SAFET-I GUIDELINE FROM SAN DIEGO COUNTY

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Sue Dickinson, RN, MSN,^{*} and Michelle Shores, RN, MSN, MBA-HC, CEN, SANE-A, SANE-P^{||}

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Reprint Address: Kristi L. Koenig, MD, County of San Diego, Health and Human Services Agency, Emergency Medical Services, 6255 Mission Gorge Road, San Diego, CA 92120

- [https://www.jem-journal.com/article/S0736-4679\(20\)30788-5/fulltext](https://www.jem-journal.com/article/S0736-4679(20)30788-5/fulltext)

Driving Policy & Best Practice

- Identified gaps in law
 - Family code 6930 was changed as result
- Upcoming Legislation for improved state wide access
- National and local training
- California Health Alert Notification
- California law for DV exams



Date: February 12, 2019

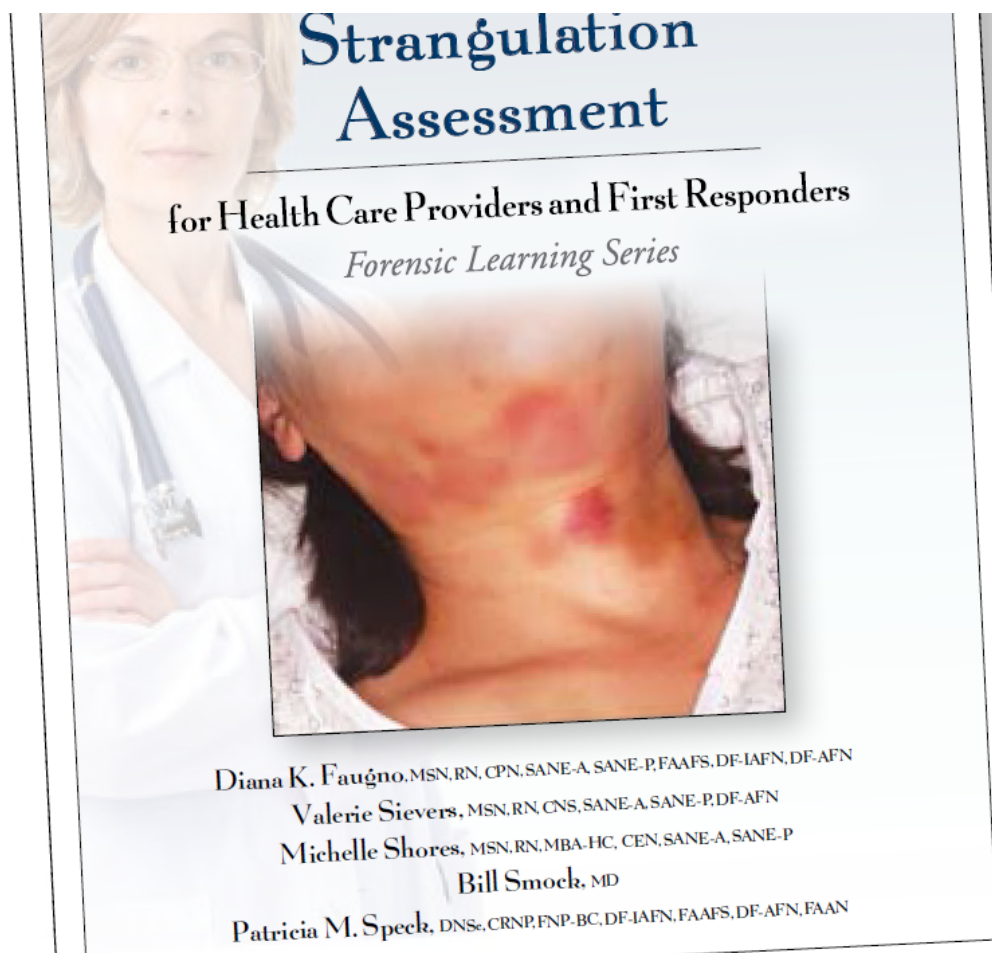
To: CAHAN San Diego Participants

From: Health and Human Services Agency

Strangulation: Intimate Partner Violence in San Diego County

This health advisory informs healthcare providers about the risks of intimate partner, non-fatal strangulation. It also contains resource links and recommendations for local healthcare providers.

Publications

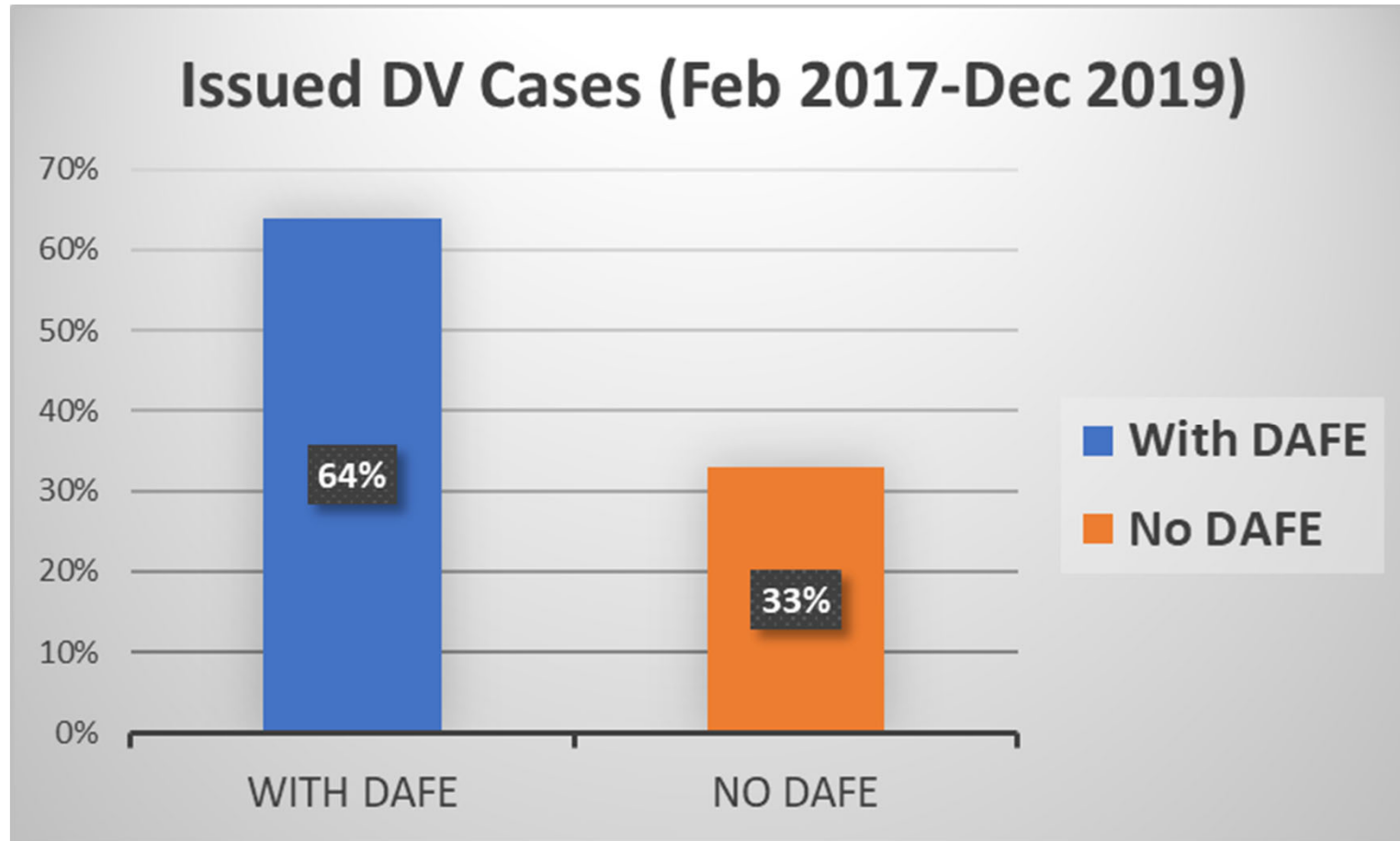


2. 21-Year-Old Male Patient Assaulted by an Acquaintance
3. 66-Year-Old Female Patient Assaulted by Her Son
4. 17-Year-Old Female Patient Assaulted by a Nonintimate Acquaintance Stalker
5. 26-Year-Old Female Patient Assaulted by a Former Intimate Partner
6. 15-Year-Old Female Patient Assaulted by a Stranger
7. 24-Year-Old Female Patient Assaulted by a Former Intimate Partner
8. 65-Year-Old Female Patient Assaulted by a Former Intimate Partner
9. 31-Year-Old Female Patient Assaulted by a Former Intimate Partner
10. 22-Year-Old Female Patient Assaulted by a Former Intimate Partner
11. 70-Year-Old Male Patient Assaulted by an Employee
12. 56-Year-Old Female Patient Assaulted by an Ex-Husband
13. 30-Year-Old Female Patient Assaulted and Strangled by an Intimate Partner
14. 25-Year-Old Female Patient Assaulted by a Stranger
15. 46-Year-old Female Patient Assaulted and Strangled by Her Husband

Section III: Appendix

Section IV: Recommended Reading

HIGHER ISSUANCE RATE – DAFE v. NO DAFE



SAN DIEGO COUNTY HEALTH CARES

- C** Conduct screening for current and former intimate partner abuse
- A** Assess for signs and symptoms of strangulation
- R** Report suspicious injuries to law enforcement
- E** Evaluate patient (evidence collection by a forensic examiner)
- S** Safety plan and connect patient to resources

www.sdcountyhealthcares.org

- https://www.kusi.com/county-to-help-healthcare-professionals-better-identify-and-address-domestic-violence/?fbclid=IwAR36qon85Ke5QgZqxMgdnYB3ynd9MoQooX_9d47CkQw-FceJeK89uYVCpoL8

Promoting Palomar FHS for CARES



https://www.nbcsandiego.com/on-air/as-seen-on/Campaign-to-Identify-Domestic-Violence-Victims-Data-Driven_San-Diego-563178242.html

**PALOMAR HEALTH
DEVELOPMENT, INC.**

Promoting Palomar FHS for CARES

The San Diego Union-Tribune

SUBSCRIBE
4 weeks for only \$19.99

Countywide campaign unveiled to help healthcare professionals better identify, address domestic violence



With the cameras she uses on the bed next to her, Karen Marcus, a forensic nurse with Palomar Medical Center, stands in the medical unit where victims of domestic violence are examined at downtown San Diego's Family Justice Center. (K. C. Alfred / San Diego Union-Tribune)

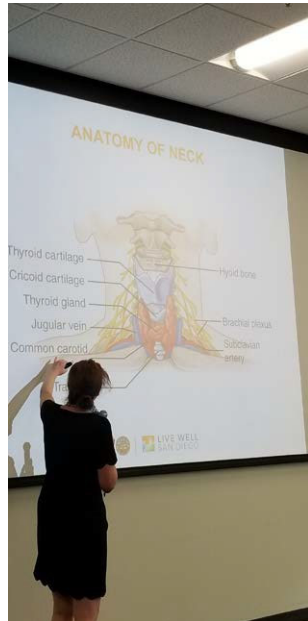
Effort builds on countywide protocol that helped trauma care providers better document strangulation cases, resulting in a spike in felony strangulation prosecutions



- <https://www.sandiegouniontribune.com/news/public-safety/story/2019-10-15/da-press-conference>

**PALOMAR HEALTH
DEVELOPMENT, INC.**

Training Event



County Public Health

- Administration
- Public Health Nursing

County EMS
 San Ysidro Health Center
 Neighborhood Healthcare Imperial
 Beach Community Clinic Rady
 Children's

- Hospital
- Chadwick

Scripps:

- Scripps Healthcare
- Scripps Memorial Hospital

Navy:

- Naval Medical Center SD
- Naval Hospital SD
- Naval Hospital Camp Pendleton
- Navy Marine Corps Public Health Center

Kaiser Permanente
 Sharp:

- Sharp Memorial Hospital

- Sharp Healthcare

UCSD

- UCSD Health
- UCSD Hospital

Palomar Health

- Palomar Hospital
- Palomar Health Forensic Services


Planned Parenthood of the Pacific Southwest

American Medical Response San Marcos Fire Dept

Vista Fire Dept
 San Diego Mesa College
 Palomar College

San Diego County Medical Examiner's Office

Awareness and Information Packets



SU SALUD INVOLUCRA MÁS DE LO QUE SE PUEDE VER

HABLE CON SU PROVEEDOR DE SERVICIOS DE SALUD SI SU PAREJA ACTUAL O ANTERIOR LA/LO ESTÁ LASTIMANDO. HAY AYUDA DISPONIBLE.

¿Sabías esto?

- La violencia doméstica puede ponerlo/a en mayor riesgo de tener resultados negativos de salud, como presión arterial alta, aborto espontáneo y problemas de salud mental / uso de sustancias.
- Los episodios repetidos de violencia doméstica que resultan en una lesión cerebral traumática están asociados con síntomas graves de salud.
- El estrangulamiento de una pareja a menudo no deja lesiones visibles.
- La exposición a la violencia doméstica puede afectar a sus hijos emocionalmente, físicamente, psicológicamente y cognitivamente.

Línea Nacional Contra la Violencia Doméstica
1-888-799-7233 (24 Horas/Confidencial)
WWW.THEHOTLINE.ORG

2-1-1 San Diego
(24 Horas/Confidencial)
WWW.211.ORG

SAN DIEGO COUNTY HEALTH CARES
A nosotros nos **IMPORTA** su seguridad y bienestar

LIVE WELL SAN DIEGO

SAN DIEGO DOMESTIC VIOLENCE



ONLY YOU DECIDE WHAT GOES ON YOUR NECK

TALK WITH YOUR HEALTHCARE PROVIDER TODAY IF SOMEONE HAS PUT THEIR HANDS OR AN OBJECT AROUND YOUR NECK

San Diego County Health CARES
San Diego County Health CARES about your safety and wellness.

National Domestic Violence Hotline
1-888-799-7233 (24 Hour/Confidential)
WWW.THEHOTLINE.ORG

2-1-1 San Diego
(24 Hour/Confidential)
WWW.211.ORG

SAN DIEGO COUNTY HEALTH CARES

LIVE WELL SAN DIEGO

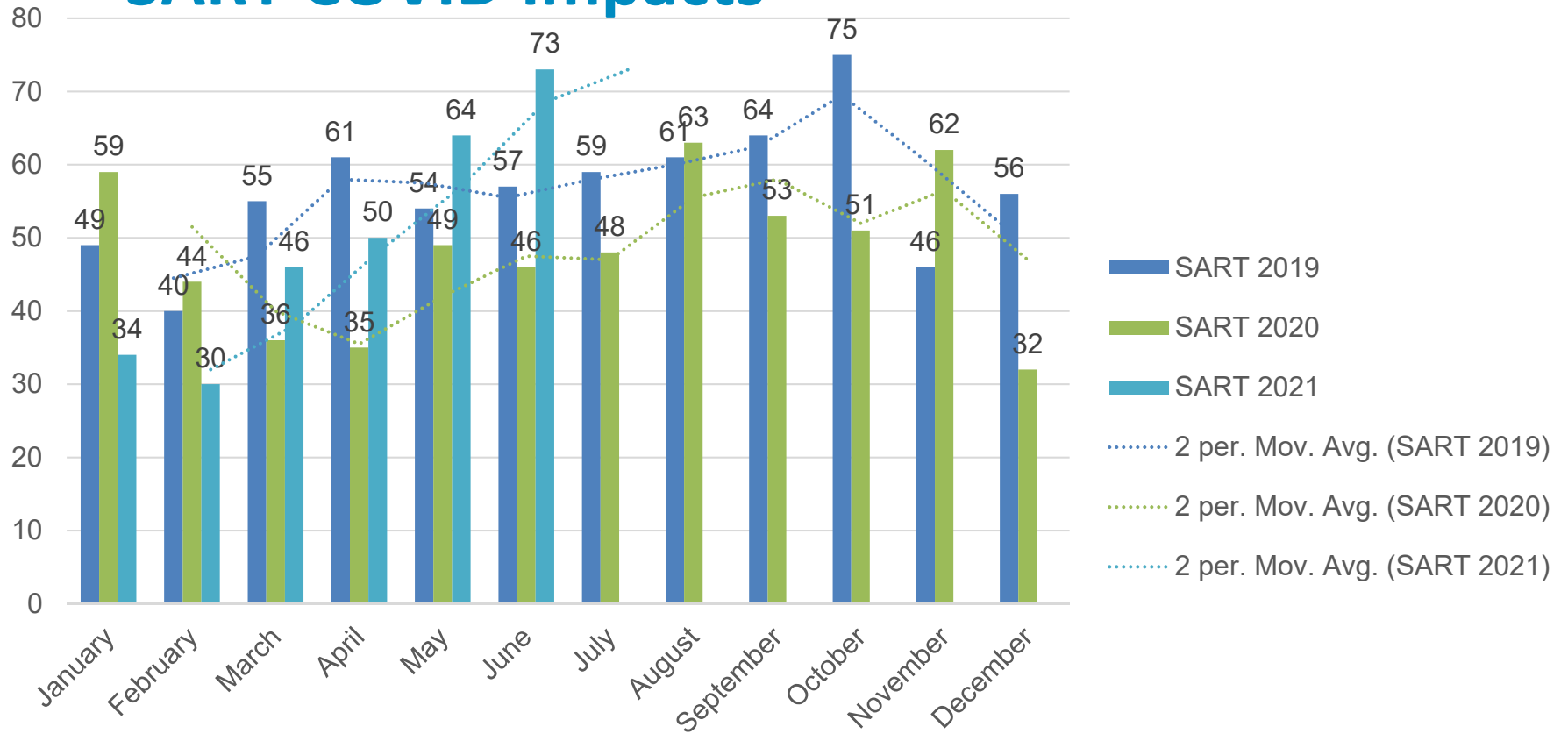
SAN DIEGO DOMESTIC VIOLENCE



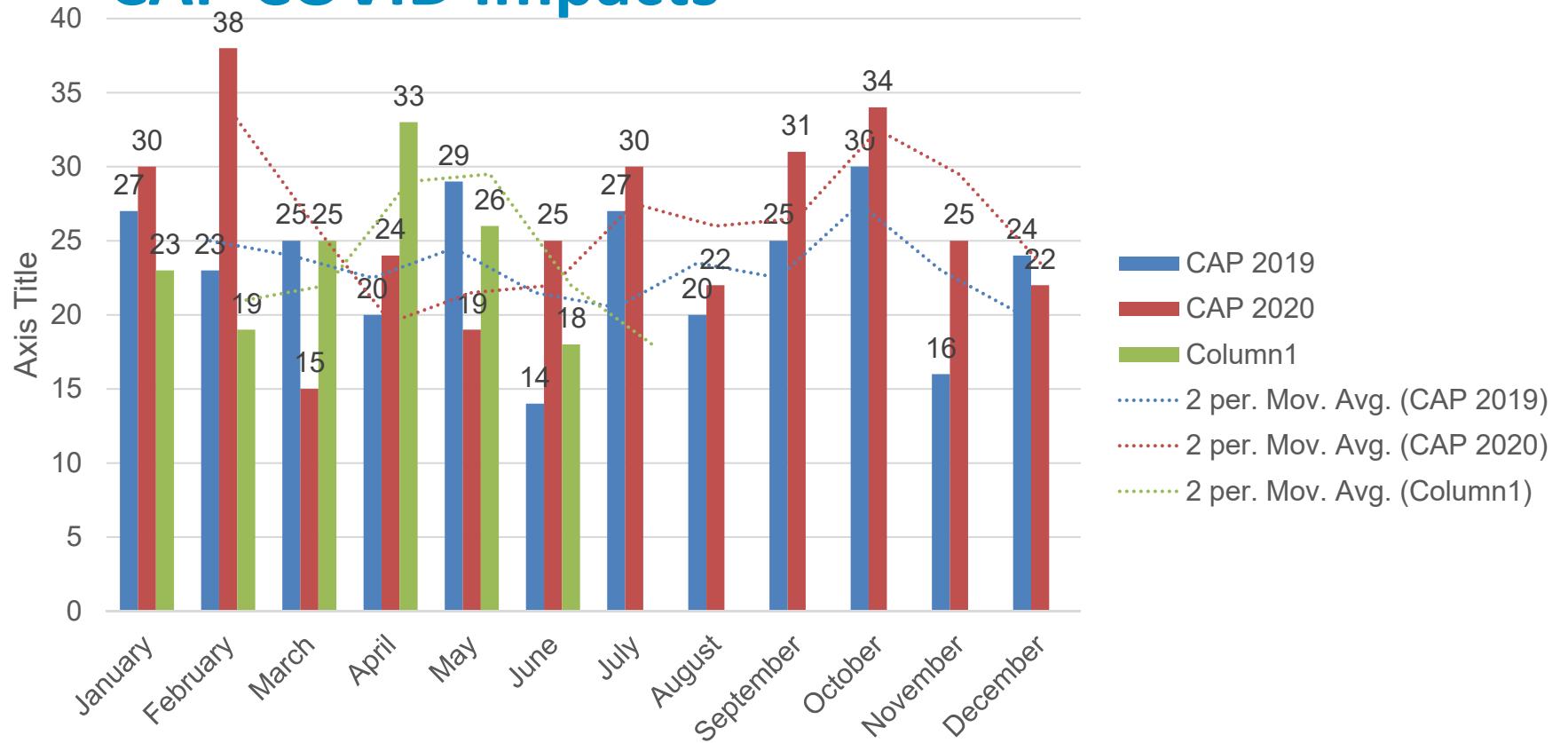
Volumes (Calendar Year)

	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Total Cases	241	454	466	891	1502	1394	1408	1617
CAP Interviews	141	279	271	277	253	280	312	304
CAP Exams (PEDS)	0	0	0	3	23	31	40	38
SART Total	100	175	195	518	660	687	578	678
DAFE	0	0	0	93	258	205	253	240
FAX	0	0	0	0	15	11	24	18
New Alternatives	-	-	-	-	293	371	201	214
Rady's Exams (not in final total)	0	0	0	0	39	46	33	57
AT Therapy Program	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	125

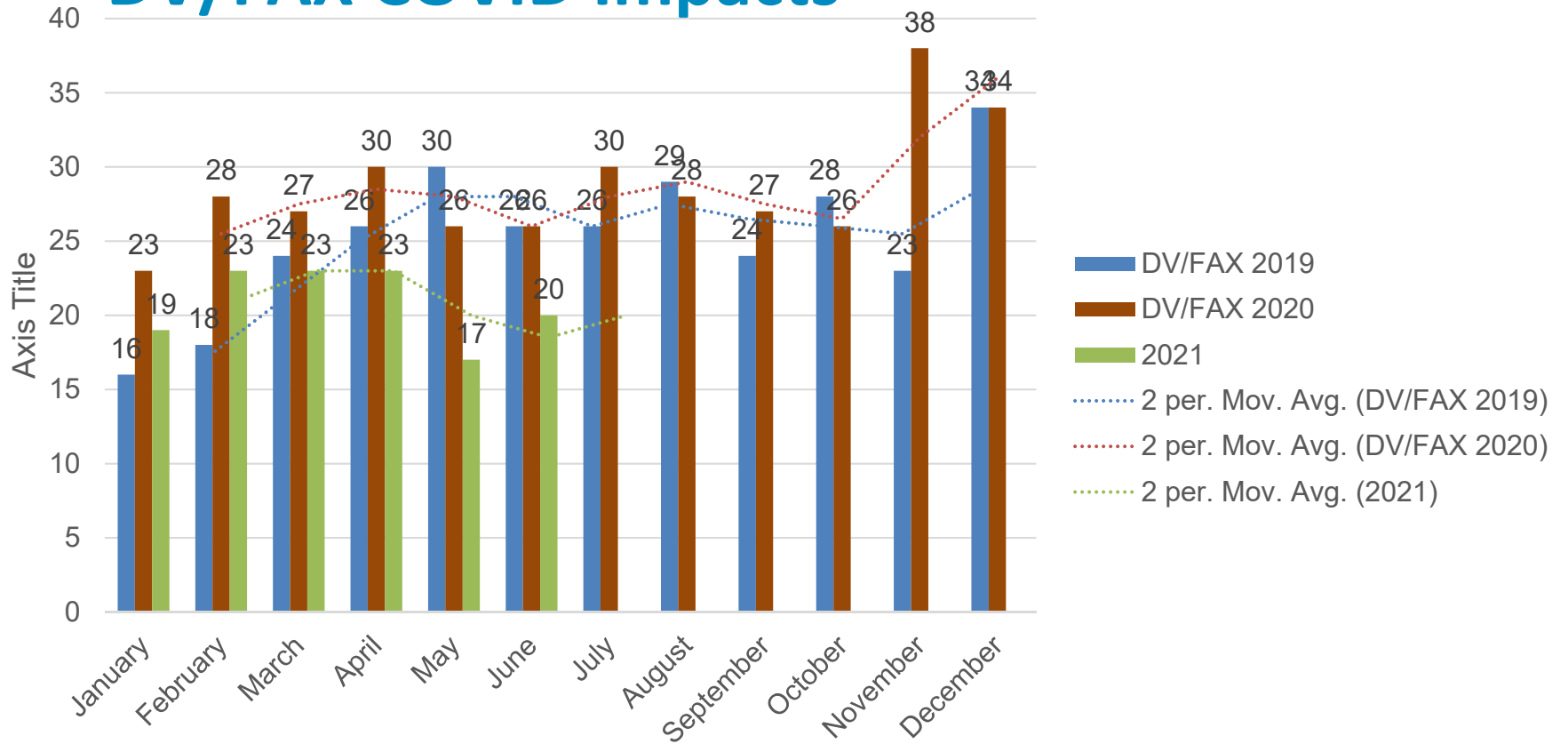
SART COVID Impacts



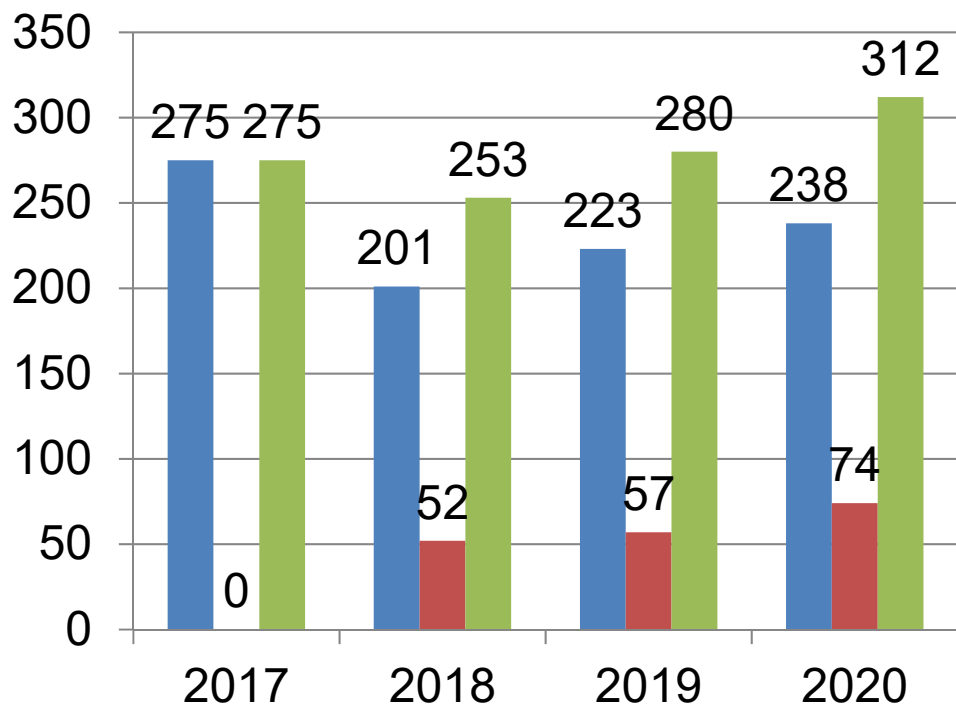
CAP COVID Impacts



DV/FAX COVID Impacts

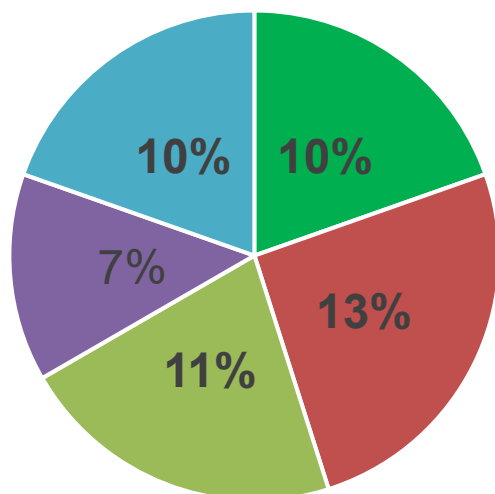


Breaking The Cycle of Violence



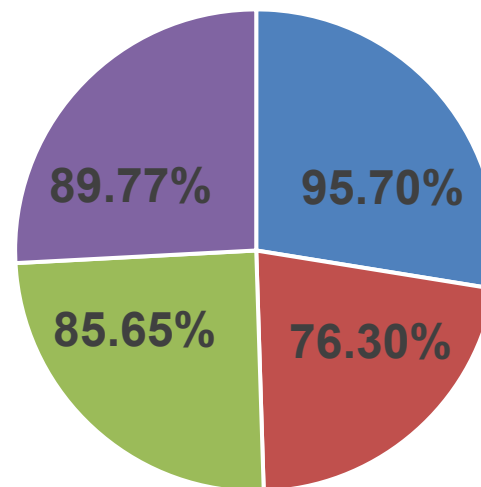
- Total Primary Interviews
- Secondary Victim Interviews
- Total CAP

SART with Strangulation



■ 2016 ■ 2017 ■ 2018 ■ 2019 ■ 2020

DAFE with Strangulation



■ 2017 ■ 2018 ■ 2019 ■ 2020

Community Outreach

- Law Enforcement Briefings
- Trainings
 - Stewards of Children Darkness to Light prevention Training
- Advocacy Training
- Public Health
- Partner or Medical Agencies



A Few of Our Community Partners



Empowering Native Wellness



Indian Health Council, Inc.
Peace Between Partners Program



San Diego Law Enforcement Agencies

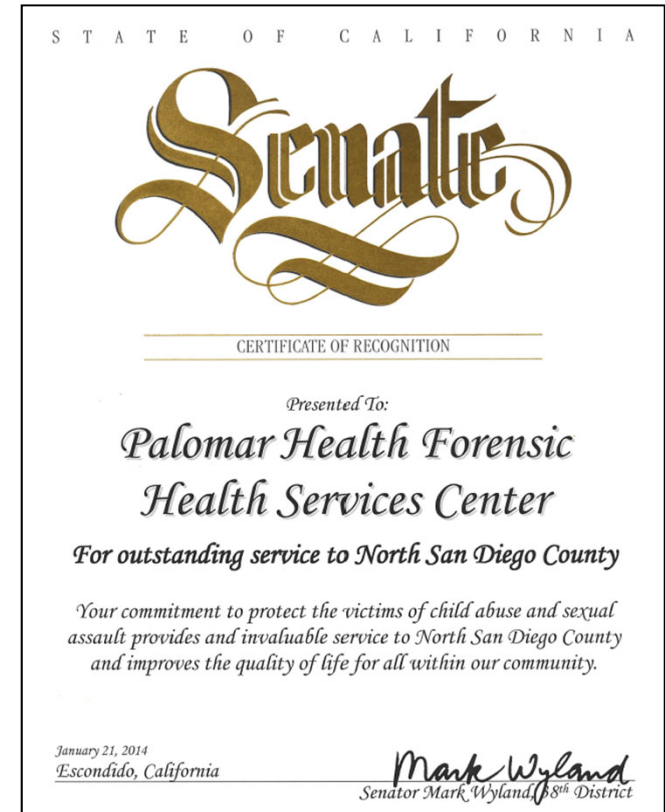
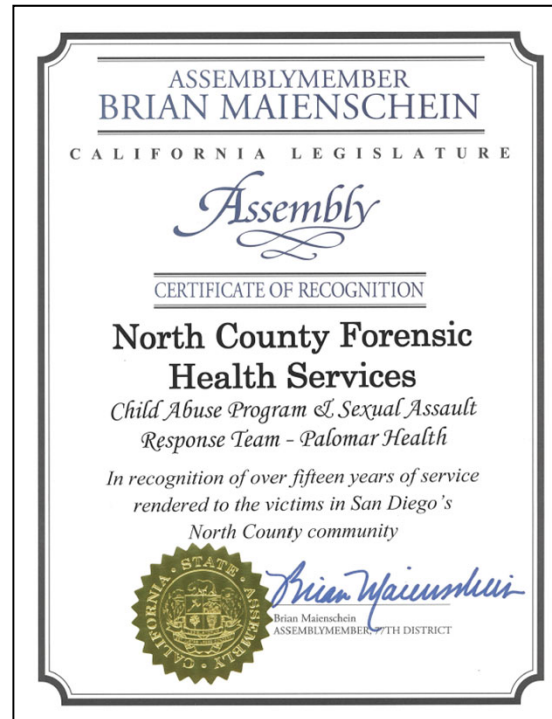
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Some of Our Community Partners

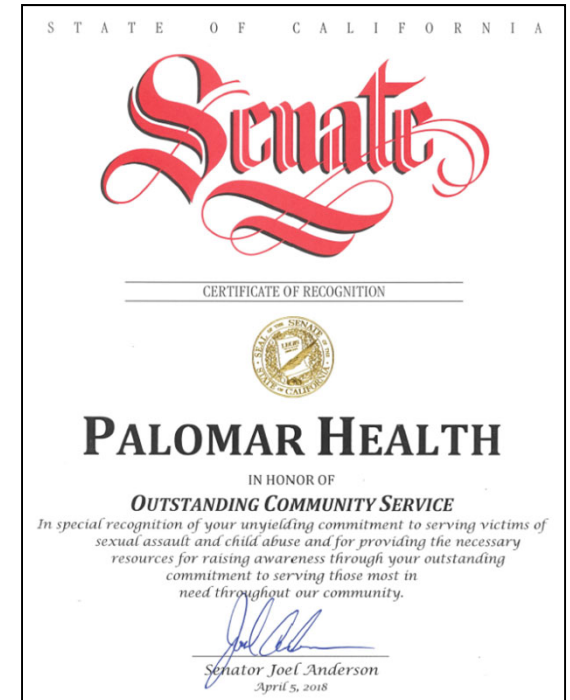
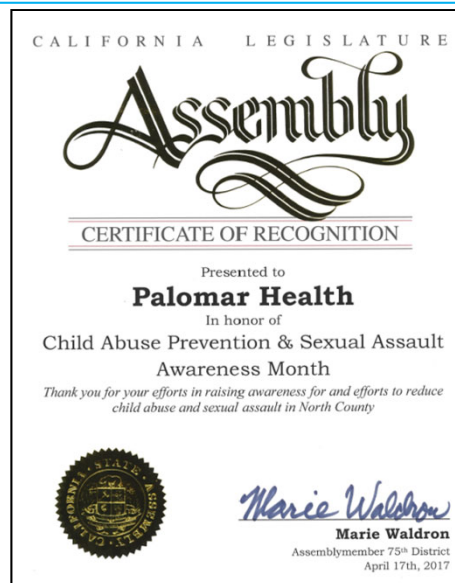
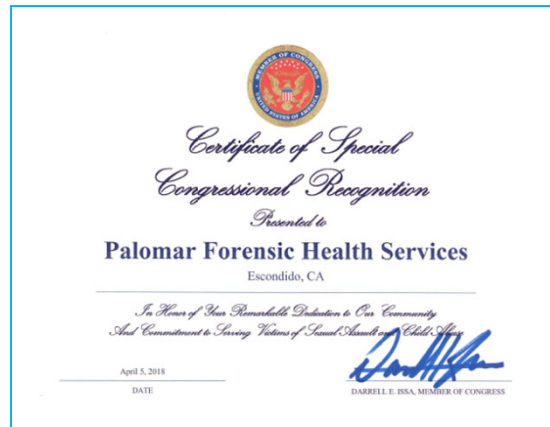




RECOGNITION



RECOGNITION



April
IS BOTH

CHILD ABUSE
PREVENTION MONTH

and

Sexual Assault
Awareness Month

Team Tribute Video with animation by a child:

<https://vimeo.com/412798761/f99ada910a>

Pinwheel Displays, *Planting Hope*



Palomar Medical Center – Poway

Why We Strive to Get it Right

<https://flic.kr/s/aHsmdS9ca5>



<https://www.flickr.com/photos/153611942@N07/41354745512/in/album-72157692413154682/>