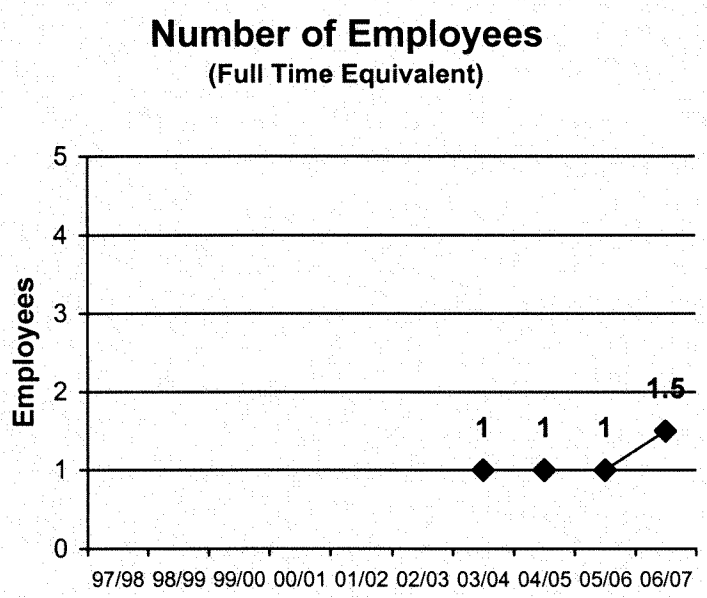
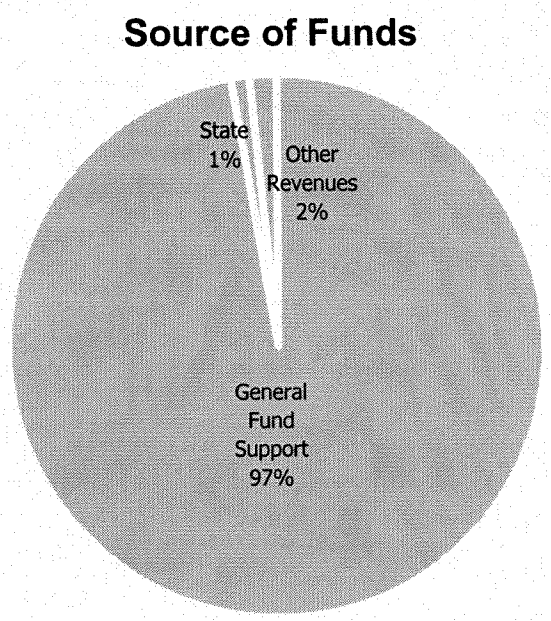
PURPOSE

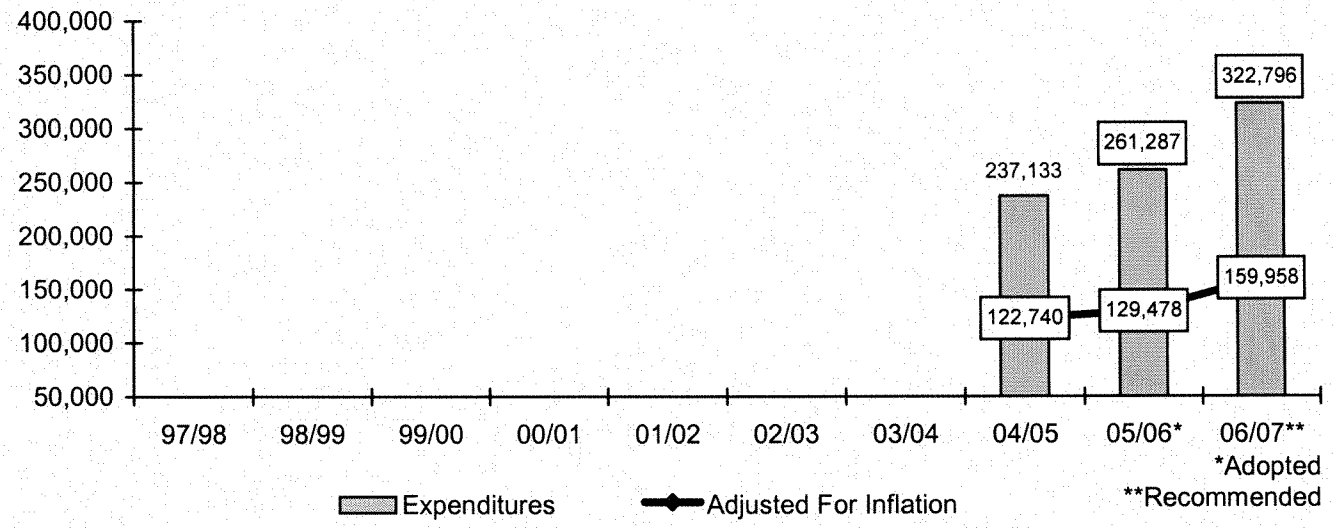
To provide care to – and collect evidence from – victims of sexual or other physical abuse.

Financial Summary	2005-06 Budget	2005-06 Projected	2006-07 Requested	2006-07 Recommended	Change From 2005-06
Revenues	$ 6,500	$ 6,172	$ 6,500	$ 6,500	$ 0
Salary and Benefits	184,242	189,872	189,060	214,568	30,326
Services and Supplies	77,045	67,619	105,408	108,228	31,183
**Gross Expenditures	$ 261,287	$ 257,491	$ 294,468	$ 322,796	$ 61,509
Less Intrafund Transfers	0	0	2,649	2,649	2,649
**Net Expenditures	$ 261,287	$ 257,491	$ 291,819	$ 320,147	$ 58,860
General Fund Support (G.F.S.)	$ 254,787	$ 251,319	$ 285,319	$ 313,647	$ 58,860





10 Year Expenditures Adjusted For Inflation



DEPARTMENT COMMENTS

The Suspected Abuse Response Team (SART) provides medical forensic services for suspected sexual assault, suspected acute or chronic sexual abuse, and physical abuse, upon request from local, state agencies and northern Santa Barbara County upon request. Specifically trained SART staff performs the medical-legal exams. The SART staff is an integral part of a criminal investigation by the Law Enforcement Agencies and/or investigation requested by Child Protective Services. The SART Advisory Board acts as a supportive and advisory body to the SART Medical Director to assist in unifying efforts, accountabilities, and responsibilities of all SART member agencies through a multidisciplinary and collaborative approach.

Customer Service

In FY 2005-06, the SART program established the use of digitalized photography as a routine part of the forensic medical exam in order to enhance the District Attorney's ability to perform their job as needed. The SART program also has made both the SART/SCAN reports available to the requesting agencies within 24 hours of exam.

Goal for FY 06-07:
1) Improve the on-call coverage, thereby shortening the interval between requests for examinations and the examination, further improving the quality of forensic evidence and reducing the waiting time for the victim.

Internal Business Improvements

This year the SART program has struggled with the ability to cover calls 24/7 due to limited temporary help staff available to cover all the on-call time. The SART program Administrative Assistant has taken and triaged the calls and uses a phone tree to find available staff to perform mandated exams.

Goal for FY 06-07:
1) Improve the on-call status; having the ability to have qualified examiners on-call 24/7.

Finance

The SART program is primarily funded by General Fund support but charges for services when appropriate. The program revised their fees to be more in alignment with the Public Health Department Fee Schedule. The SART staff will also be more directly involved with purchasing and monitoring of services and supplies after training on the County EFS/SAP system.

Goal for FY 06-07:
1) Follow-up on fees charged to outside agencies when appropriate.

Learning and Growth

The SART program continues to hold bi-monthly case and peer review of SART exams. The program also supports staff debriefings as needed, based on a case-by-case need. This program also offers in depth training to nurses who are available to take on-call by requiring staff to enroll in the Basic Sexual Assault Medical Examiner Training offered by the California Medical Training Center.

Goal for FY 06-07:
1) The SART program have at least 3 or 4 fully trained SART examiners and two of them would be permanent positions.

RECOMMENDED BUDGET AUGMENTATION REQUEST AND RELATED RESULTS

Unit /Amount	Description	Results
Gross: $53,242 General Fund Support: $33,986	Addition of 0.5 Nurse to provide on-call coverage and to provide SART examinations	24/7 on-call coverage requirement will be met. In FY 05-06, the requirement was not met 20% of the time.

COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR'S COMMENTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that a 0.5 nurse be added to the department's operations (reference the Budget Augmentation Request above). In the past, SART has relied heavily upon the use of temporary help in order to provide 24/7 on-call coverage and to conduct examinations. Given the extreme shortage of nurses in the area (and in all of California), the special training required for this line of work, and the nature of the work, retaining temporary help has been extremely difficult. As such, the 24/7 coverage requirement has not been met approximately 20% of the time during the 05-06 fiscal year. It is believed that the addition of a permanent position will add stability to the program and will allow the department to meet its 24/7 coverage requirement.

The level of General Fund support in this budget unit is recommended to increase $58,860 or 23%. Salaries and benefits are increasing approximately $30,000 or 16% due to the addition of the 0.5 nurse position (the full cost of the position is partially offset due to a reduction of temporary help and on-call expenditures). Services and supplies are recommended to increase approximately $31,000 or 40%. This latter increase is largely out of the department's control as the primary reasons for the increase are Countywide overhead and insurance.