



Child Sex Trafficking: Identifying, Responding and Case Managing

September 16, 2020



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WestCoast Children's Clinic

Welcome & Introductions

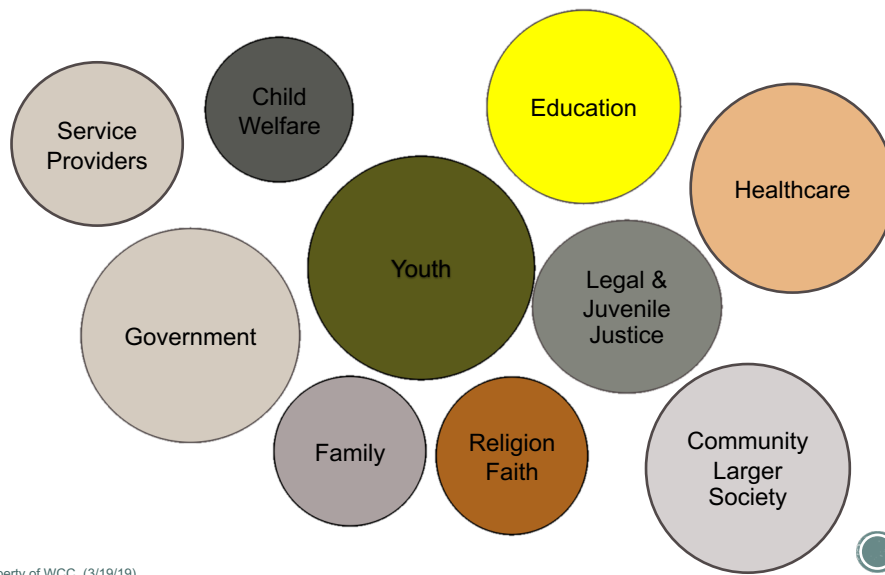
Hon. Madelin F. Einbinder, Presiding Family Judge
Ocean Vicinage
Children in Court Committee, Chair





Orienting to the Issue

Why we're here...



Property of WCC, (3/19/19)

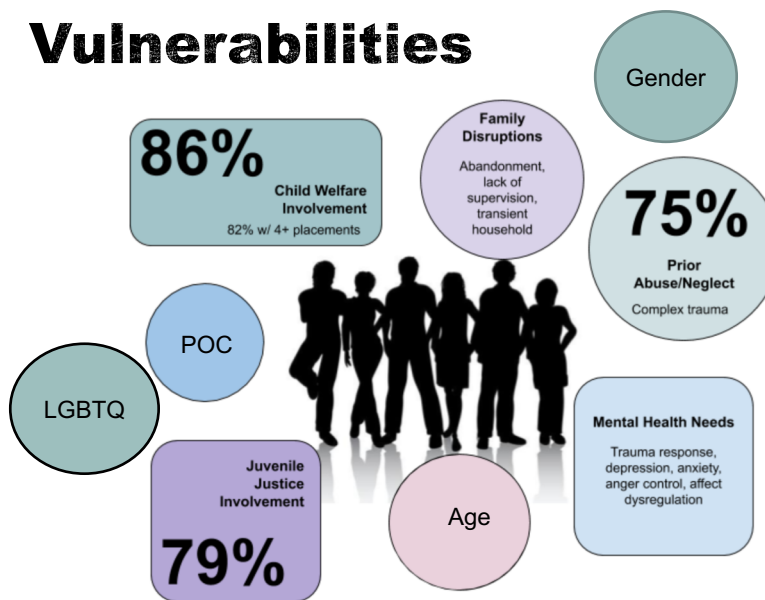
Cyntoia Brown – NYT Article



- Please take a moment to read the article in your handouts.
- What do you notice about how the events and the people involved are presented?
 - Do you see any stereotypes and biases encoded in the article? If so, what do you see?

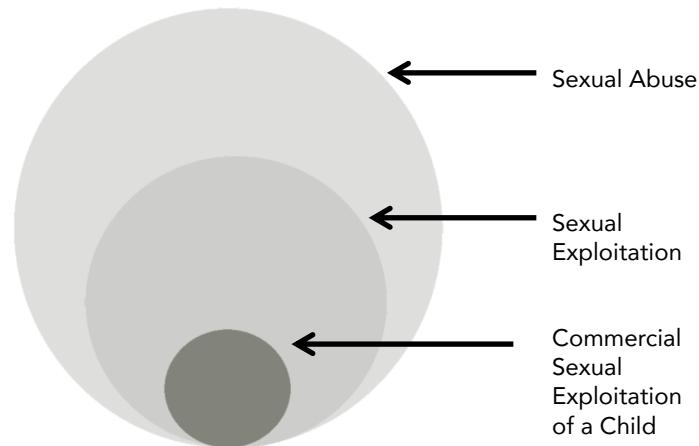
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Vulnerabilities



(From Psychotherapy for Commercially Sexually Exploited Children: A Guide for Community-Based Behavioral Health Practitioners and Agencies, WCC 2018)

Defining CSEC



All CSEC is a form of sexual abuse (SA), but not all SA is CSEC.

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Notable Federal + New Jersey Statutes

Federal

- 2000: U.S. Trafficking Victims Protection Act (TVPA)

New Jersey

- April 26, 2005: New Jersey Enacted N.J.S.A 2C:13-8
- May 6, 2013: Governor signed the Human Trafficking Prevention, Protection and Treatment Act
 - *One of the most progressive and comprehensive anti-trafficking statutes in the country*
- January is Human Trafficking Awareness Month

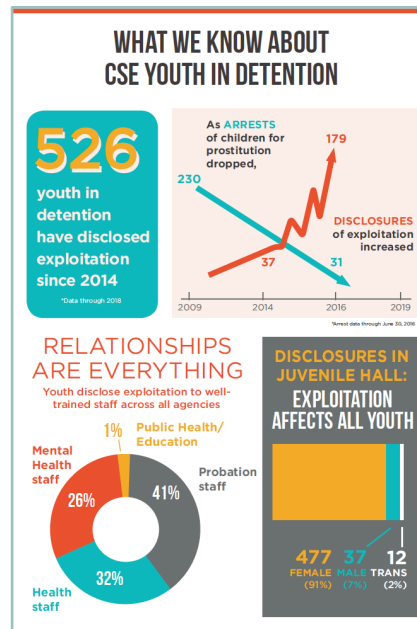
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What we know so far about how these laws are impacting youth...

1) Youth seem to be disclosing at increased rates to probation and legal staff; and

2) Increased understanding that these systems are aiming to protect them.

(From NCYL and Los Angeles County)



Property of WCC, (3/19/19)

Common Misperceptions

CSEC is **NOT** ...

- prostitution
- exclusive to “survival sex”
- promiscuity
- a moral failing of the child
- the child’s identity
- a choice



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“Choice”...is Complicated

- What may *seem* like a “choice” might be:
 - *Trauma* impacting the youth - feelings, behaviors, understanding, worldview (including *sexually reactive behaviors*)
 - Youth trying to feel *power* or *control* in a situation
 - Youth trying to *make sense* of a difficult and confusing situation
 - The *exploiter influencing* the situation and understanding

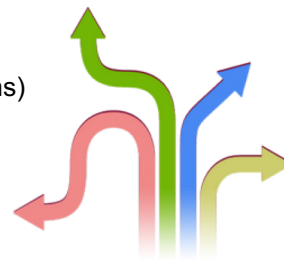


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Pathways into “The Life”

- Familial Exploitation (parents, caregivers, family members)
- Romeo Exploitation (seduction by boyfriend/girlfriend)
- Guerilla Exploitation (violence, threats, force)
- Peer to Peer Recruitment
- Gang-based Recruitment
- Internet Enticement (social media, chat rooms)
- Survival Sex



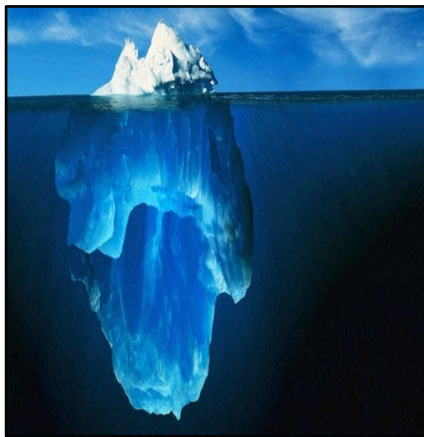
(MISSEY, WCC, 2018)





Centering Trauma & Trauma of Exploitation

Trauma is...



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- Deeply distressing
 - Can shatter basic assumptions like *"the world is safe," "people are good,"* or *"I am in control"*
- Real or perceived threat to life, bodily integrity, or sanity
- Overwhelms ability to cope
- Outside the scope of "everyday human experiences"
 - Though chronic trauma situations can become "everyday"
- Based on an individual's subjective experience



What is Complex Trauma?

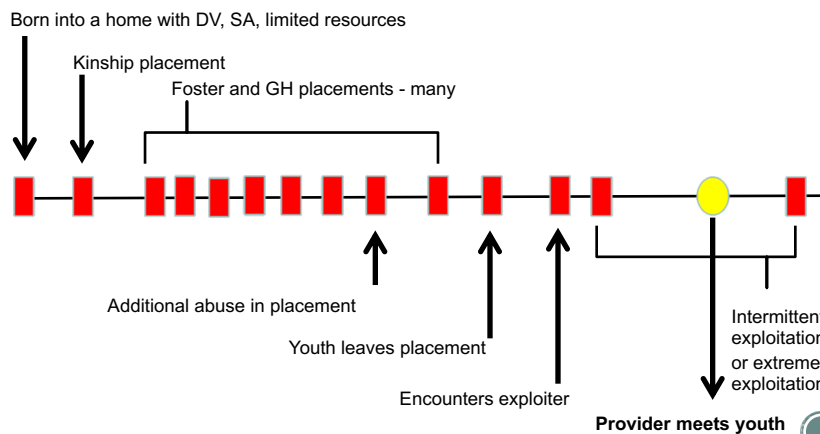
- Simultaneous/sequential child maltreatment:
 - Emotional, physical, or sexual abuse or neglect
 - Witnessing domestic violence
 - Traumatic loss/es
- At the hand of a parent, family member, or caregiver
- Systemic and/or intergenerational traumas (i.e. poverty, racism)
- Can lead to increased risk for trauma exposure later in life



Complex trauma can be thought of as layered trauma.

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Common CSEC Profile



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Trauma is Common – ACES STUDY (Kaiser, 1998)

Adverse Childhood Experiences:

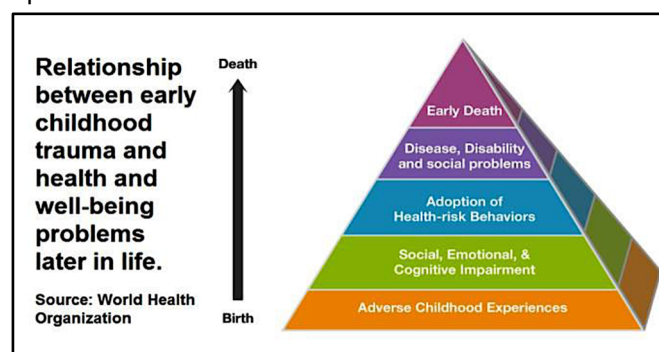
- Child's parent or caregiver who:
 - Divorced or separated
 - Passed away/died
 - Served time in a jail/prison
 - Suffered mental illness, suicidality, depression
 - Had alcohol or substance problems
 - Behaved violently toward another in front of child
- Or a child who:
 - Was a victim of violence or witnessed violence
 - Often or very often experienced economic hardship

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ACES & Physical/Mental Health

- With additional ACES, we see more long-term health and life impacts.

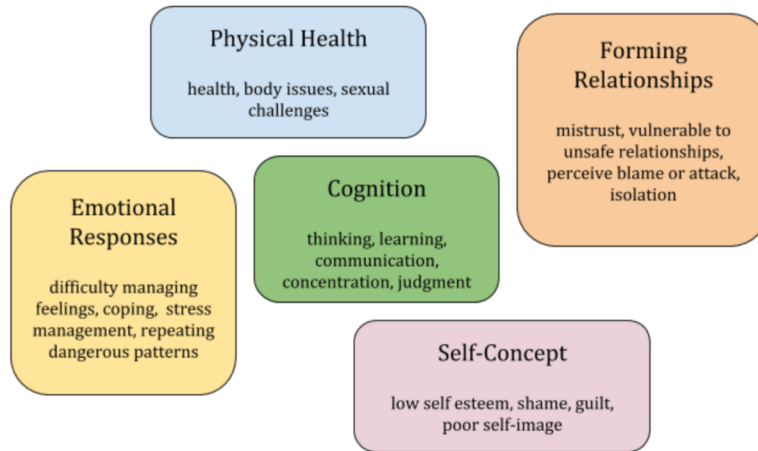


- Some systems of care, like child welfare or juvenile probation, are positioned to intervene when some of these ACES are happening.
- Not predictive – healing and support can mitigate effects!

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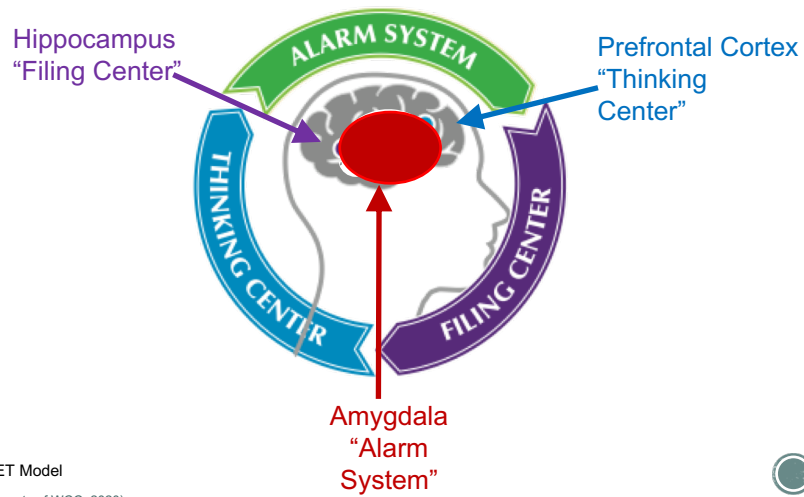


Long-term, Pervasive Impacts



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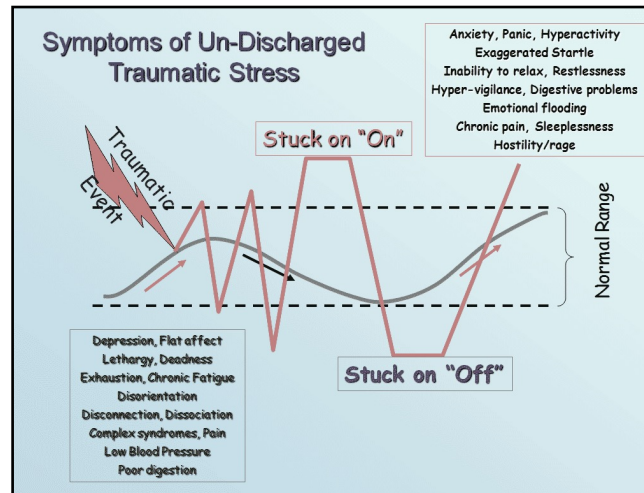
The Brain: Under Stress



Source: TARGET Model

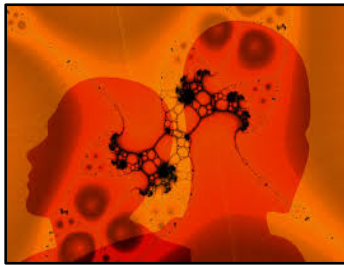
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The Body: Extreme Stress



(from the Somatic Experiencing Training Institute)

Understanding Trauma Bonds



For exploited youth, it can look like:

- Returning to exploiter
- Expressing loving feelings for exploiter
- Protecting exploiter from legal consequences

Victims of abuse often develop a **strong sense of loyalty & compassion** towards their abuser, despite the fact that the bond is detrimental to the victim.

- ✓ The presence of threats to physical or psychological survival
- ✓ The presence of a small kindness from the abuser to the victim
- ✓ Isolation from other perspectives
- ✓ An inability to escape the situation

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Impossible Choices

Would you rather trust everyone or never trust anyone?

Would you rather be alone forever or always have other people around?

Would you rather lose all of your memories from birth to now or lose your ability to make new long term memories?

Would you rather not be able to trust anyone or trust everybody always?

Would you rather relive the same day for 365 days or lose a year of your life?

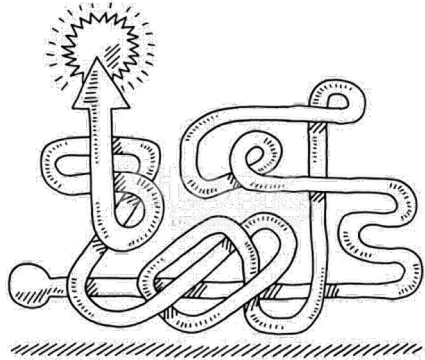
Would you rather be constantly tired or constantly hungry?

(WestCoast, 2020, MISSSEY, 2018)



Break





Working With(In) Systems: Best Practices for Case Management

Family/Caregiving
Other Providers
Collaboration

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Core Components of Supporting Exploited Youth:

- Addressing Safety
- Engagement (long and ongoing)
- Psychoeducation about coercive control and trauma bonding
- Self-determination
- Case management and advocacy
- Addressing the impact on providers (vicarious trauma)

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Active Case Management



Work with exploited youth is often more active than other types of case management due to the high level of needs and system involvement:

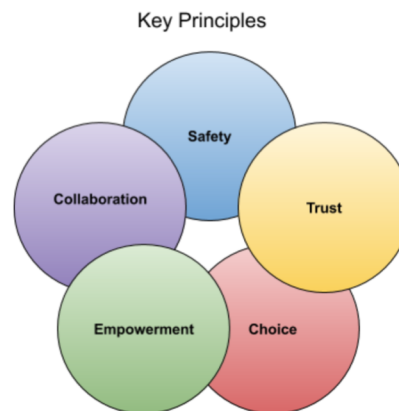
- Food, clothing, shelter, childcare, IDs, school, vocational links, crisis support, psychiatric, etc.
- Advocacy/Systems Work – Child Welfare, Juvenile Justice, school, etc.



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Trauma Informed Care

- Strengths-based framework
- Not an intervention – not “what” but “how”
- Grounded in understanding the impacts of trauma - physical, psychological, and emotional safety for survivors/providers
- Avoids re-traumatization
- Better outcomes, less crisis, lower costs, protects professional



(WCC, 2020, Hopper, Bassk, and Olivet, 2010)

Activity: Provider Dialogue

Provider: Hi, my name is Judy. I am your new support at Freedom Space.

Jade: Hi....*(silence, looking around the room, kind of slouching)*

Provider: Right up front, I want to make a few things clear...We are going to have to meet at least 1 time a week - it is a requirement of the program. We might meet more if you're having a lot of trouble. If you miss meetings, you might lose privileges....Oh and just so you know, I am a mandated reporter and I will have to report abuse I hear about - including CSEC stuff. But other than that, you can tell me anything. *(smile)* Have you ever had services like this before?

Jade: *(seeming uncomfortable, slouching in her chair)*..No, I haven't. I am not sure I really want to...or need to. Can I just do something else ... Like clean the bathroom or something?

Property of WCC, (3/19/19)



(Continued...)

Provider: *(laughing)* No, you have to meet with me. Plus it is a good part of the program...*way* better than cleaning the bathroom. I am sure there are things you need help with...most kids who come here had something go wrong. What do you think you need help with?

Jade: Umm...nothing. I'm fine...It's my old foster mother who needs help. She is why I am here.

Provider: Well maybe...but it also sounds like you may not be taking responsibility. What happens in your life, is related to your choices. We can't always blame other people I am here to help you.

Jade: *(silent, rolling her eyes from time to time, her knee starts to bounce, looking around the room and towards the door)*

Provider: ...I read the file and saw that you had an older boyfriend, were AWOL a lot, and that there were concerns you were prostituting.....was that going on?

END

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General Engagement with Exploited Youth

- Respecting and meeting basic needs
- Related (allow time to get to know each other)
- Open (does not have to be CSE specific or focused)
- Be patient! Give youth space, respect, and maintain boundaries
- Trauma Informed (attention to signs of stress, etc.)
- CSEC Informed (know the dynamics of exploitation and expect abrupt or repeated withdrawals from therapy, no shows, scheduling problems, transportation problems)
- Be realistic
- Careful about leading with “empower,” “victim,” or “survivor” terms or approach right away

Property of WCC, (3/19/19)



Asking *directly* about CSE risk

- Start with sharing what you know (if possible)
- Explain why you are asking directly
- Acknowledge need to survive when risk is present (if possible)
- Remember who you are talking to (i.e., age, situation, etc.)
- Show an open stance (body language and tone)
- Discuss reporting requirements if needed (if not covered initially)

“You told me you have been staying with friends over the past few months. I see you trying to survive and wonder if you’ve ever had to give something sexually to get food to eat, a place to stay, protection, money, or anything else?”

Property of WCC, (3/19/19)



Transitional-Aged Youth (18–21yo) & CSE

There are special considerations when supporting and serving transitional aged youth involved in exploitation:

- Recruiting, grooming or exploiting other youth
- “Bottoms”
- Developmental delays
- Different psychoeducation needs
- Legal considerations and mandated reporting
- Approaching limited resources

(Ex: On youth’s 18th birthday, police unable to respond)

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Engaging Other Providers

- Consider other providers approach and lens
- What to share? When? How?
 - Depends on your role
 - Depends on level of acuity
 - Assess risk to youth
 - Tactful communication
 - Working together!
 - Try to avoid splitting



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Engaging Family



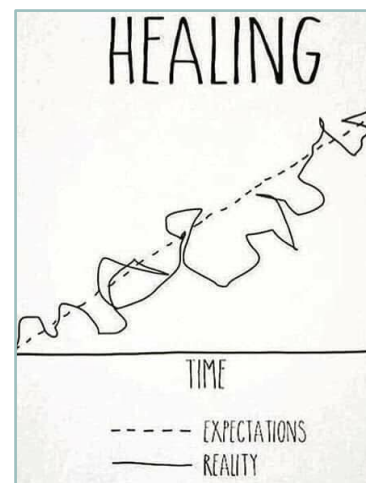
- What to share? When? How?
 - Depends on level of acuity
 - Family history
 - Assess risk to youth
- Caregiver psychoeducation and mindfulness skills
- Caregiver's own trauma experiences as it relates to youth's
- Resources – parenting classes, groups, stress hotlines, crisis supports, CSEC community supports

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Redefining “Progress”

Progress is not linear. You are not likely to be present for *all* the progress the youth will make in their healing and recovery. However, you may be able to see:

- Fewer AWOLs
- Shorter period of AWOL
- More contact while AWOL
- Consistency in contact with providers
- Increased reflection about experiences
- Harm reduction in life
- Reduced substance use
- Resuming or building natural supports




Property of WCC, (3/19/19)

Provider Safety


- Mindful about meeting locations and timing in community
 - Know the location(s) you are working in
 - Plan session to meet safety needs – time of day, lighting, public
 - Tell supervisor or leadership where you are and who you are with
- Remain mindful about calling/texting back on phones or numbers that may be shared
- Crisis and safety risks are “baselines” for some exploited youth – providers need to avoid overreacting or underreacting
- Slow down!
- Determining how to communicate about safety risks with client.

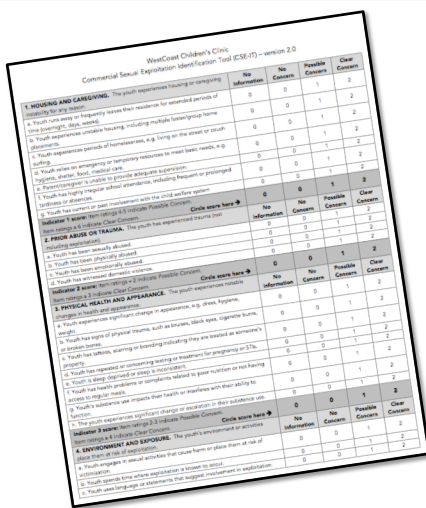
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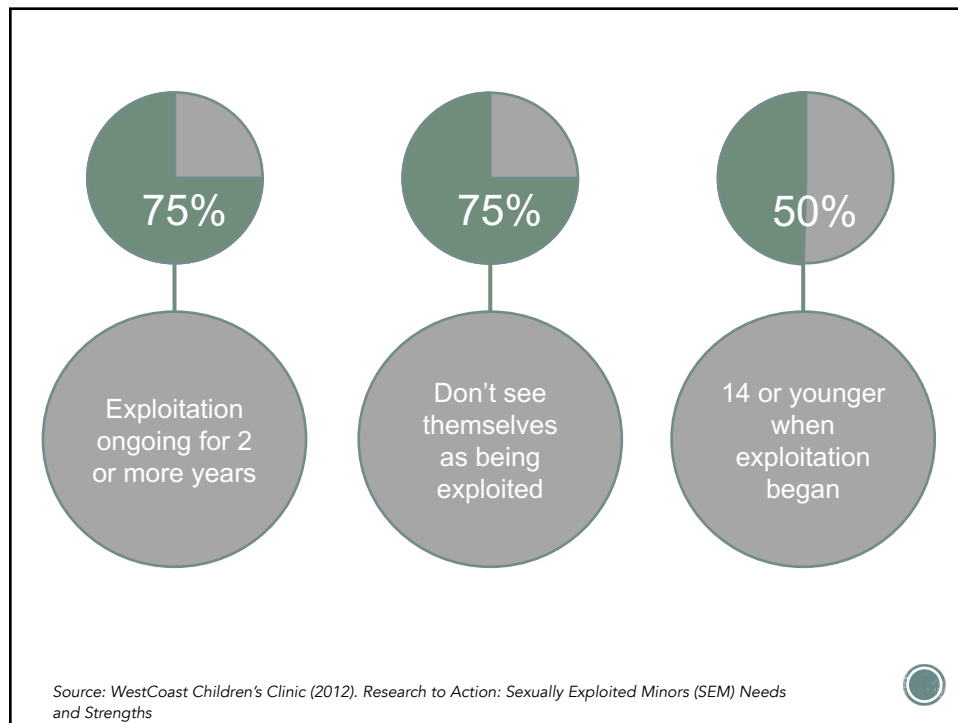


WESTCOAST CHILDREN'S CLINIC





The Commercial Sexual Exploitation Identification Tool (CSE-IT)



The CSE-IT...

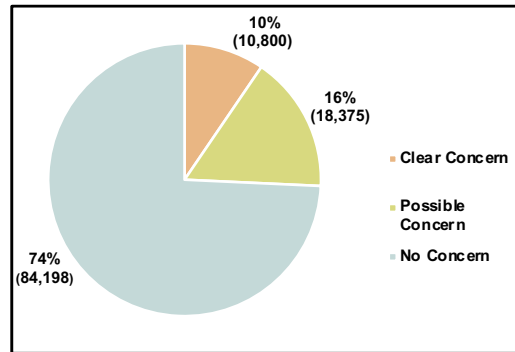
- Is evidence-based
- Collects quantitative data
- Is based on a universal screening philosophy
- Does not rely on self-disclosure
- Is quick and easy to use
- Prompts action

(Property of WestCoast, 2020)

Scope of the CSE-IT

As of August 2020:

- 110,000+ youth screened
- 10,000+ screeners across the United States and Canada



(Data from Westcoast, 2012; Westcoast 2016; 2020, and program information)

CSE-IT Version 2.0

- Eight Key Indicators
- Statements to Consider

5. RELATIONSHIPS AND PERSONAL BELONGINGS. The youth's relationships and belongings are not consistent with their age or circumstances, suggesting possible recruitment by an exploiter.	No Information	No Concern	Possible Concern	Clear Concern
a. Youth has unhealthy, inappropriate or romantic relationships, including (but not limited to) with someone older/an adult.	0	0	1	2
b. Youth meets with contacts they developed over the internet, including sex partners or boyfriends/girlfriends.	0	0	1	2
c. Explicit photos of the youth are posted on the internet or on their phone.	0	0	1	2
d. Youth receives or has access to unexplained money, credit cards, hotel keys, gifts, drugs, alcohol, transportation.	0	0	1	2
e. Youth has several cell phones or their cell phone number changes frequently.	0	0	1	2
f. Youth travels to places that are inconsistent with their life circumstances.	0	0	1	2
Indicator 5 Score: A subtotal of 1-2 indicates <i>Possible Concern</i> . A subtotal ≥ 3 indicates <i>Clear Concern</i> .	0	0	1	2

Circle score here →

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CSE-IT Scoring

- Score indicates level of concern for sexual exploitation
- Score helps determine next steps

Continuum of Concern

(draw a line indicating level of concern for exploitation)



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Getting Set Up

- Determine which format you will use
 - WCC HIPAA compliant online portal
 - Build into your database/HER
 - Paper
- MOU (required prior to using the tool)
- User Training required

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New Jersey Resources

- New Jersey Trafficking Hotline **1-855-END-NJ-HT (1-855-363-6548)** through the Office of the Attorney General
- New Jersey Department of Children and Families (DCF) **1-877-NJ ABUSE (652-2873)**
- PerformCare 24-hour Access Line **1-877-652-7624** (for therapeutic or mobile crisis response services);
- Dream Free (formerly Dream Catchers) the organization that provides services throughout New Jersey to child victims of sex trafficking (e.g., crisis response, system advocacy, intensive case management and counseling). Dream Free's 24 – Hour Hotline is: **1-800-286-4184**.
- National Center for Missing & Exploited Children **1-800-THE-LOST**

Domestic Child Sex Trafficking (DCST), Judicial Bench Card: Juvenile and Children in Court CIC



Thank You!

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