

IDENTIFYING CHILD SEXUAL EXPLOITATION

*An overview presentation on the use of the
Commercially Sexually Exploited Identification Tool
CSE-IT*

Child Sex Trafficking Team
Public Safety Office
Office of the Texas Governor





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Awareness, Prevention and Justice Solutions Lead
Child Sex Trafficking Team
Public Safety Office
Office of Governor Greg Abbott



Governor Abbott's Child Sex Trafficking Team (CSTT) was created in 2015 by the 84th Legislature to coordinate a holistic response to child sex trafficking in Texas. CSTT is a division with the Public Safety Office.



Office of the Texas Governor
Child Sex Trafficking Team



Vision

A state where children and youth are free from sexual exploitation.

Mission

To build sustainable capacity, enhance expertise, promote policies, and create new and leverage existing collaborations to prevent child sexual exploitation, to help survivors heal and thrive, and to bring exploiters to justice.



Office of the Texas Governor
Child Sex Trafficking Team

Collaborate to Recognize

Child Sex Trafficking Team, West Coast Children's Clinic, Lighthouse



Office of the Texas Governor
Child Sex Trafficking Team



**WESTCOAST
CHILDREN'S
CLINIC**



L I G H T H O U S E



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Human Trafficking

Human trafficking is a form of modern-day slavery where people are controlled and exploited for profit by others. Victims of human trafficking are men, women, children, U.S. citizens, and documented and undocumented persons forced into commercial sex and labor services.

Source: Texas Department of Public Safety website

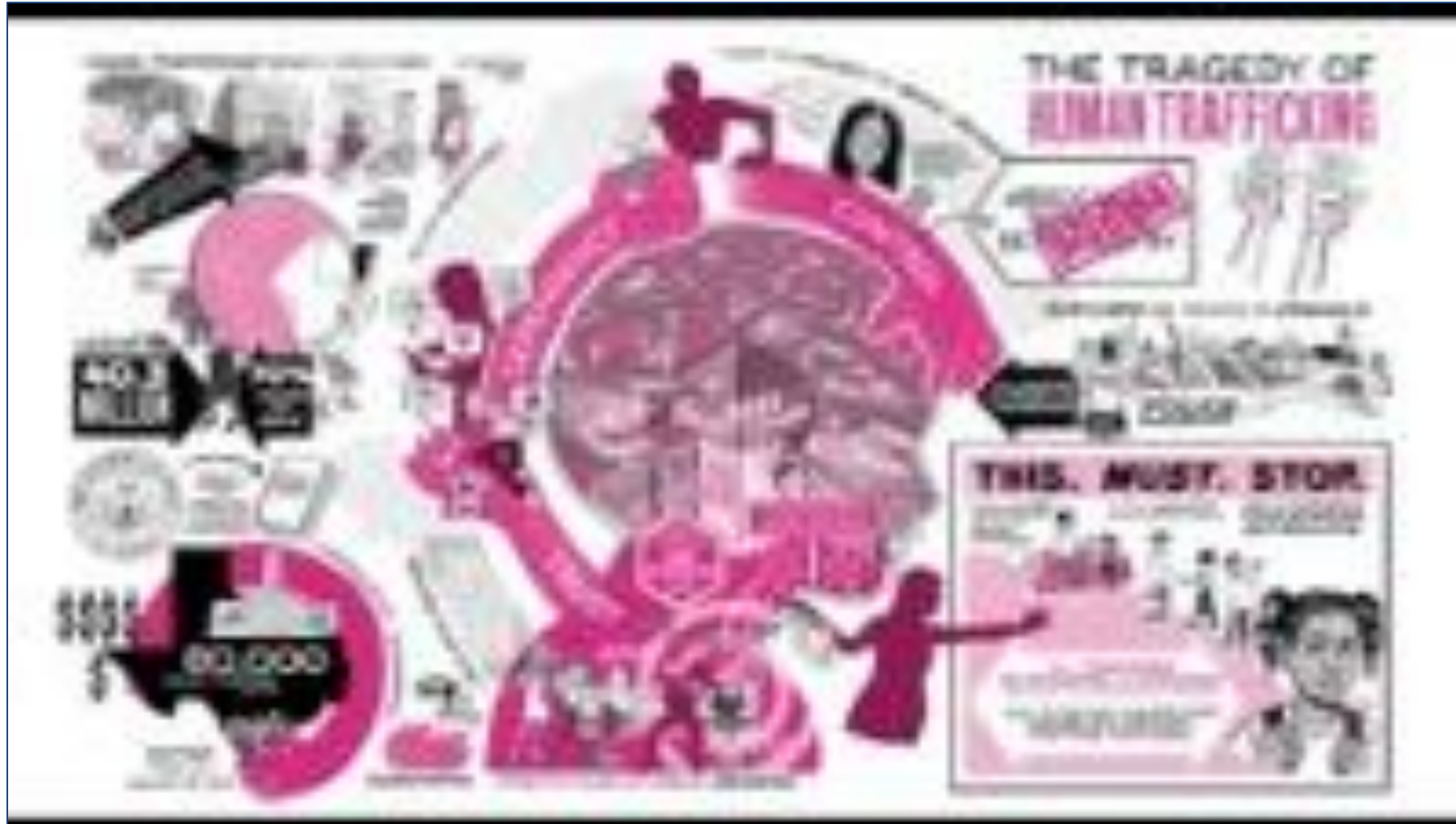


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What is Child Sex Trafficking?



Trafficking happens in all Texas communities.



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Texas has the second highest number of tips, as well as the second highest number of cases made from tips, to the National Human Trafficking Hotline.

<https://humantraffickinghotline.org/en/statistics>



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Definition of Child Sex Trafficking Under Texas Law

Traffics	Causes	Commercial Sexual Exploitation
<p>Traffics:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • transports, • entices, • recruits, • harbors, • provides, OR • otherwise obtains by any means 	<p>Through force, fraud, or coercion causes the trafficked person to engage in (if victim is over 18)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prostitution • Promotion of prostitution (and aggravated) • Online promotion of prostitution (and aggravated) • Compelling prostitution
	<p>By any means causes the trafficked child to engage in, or become the victim of conduct prohibited by <i>(no force, fraud or coercion required if victim is under 18)</i></p>	<p>Also includes additional conduct if victim is a child <i>(continuous sexual abuse; indecency; sexual assault; sexual performance; employment harmful to children; child pornography)</i></p> <p><i>Tex. Penal Code § 20A.02</i></p>



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Why screen for exploitation?

- Youth experience prolonged abuse because the problem remains hidden
 - For nearly 75% of exploited youth, abuse has been ongoing for 2+ years *before* referral to services.
- Most youth do not understand they are being exploited; self disclosure is rare
- Facilitates data-driven decision-making
- Ensures that there is *no wrong door* to identifying youth





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CSE-IT Development



- Gathered the input of 100+ stakeholders, including:
 - Wide range of providers
 - Survivors
- Wide geographic coverage across California
- Validated in 2016

(Property of WestCoast, 2020)

Screenings

Total: 155,784

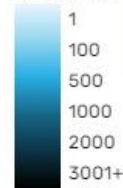
Clear Concern: 15,743 (10.1%)

Possible Concern: 22,736 (14.6%)

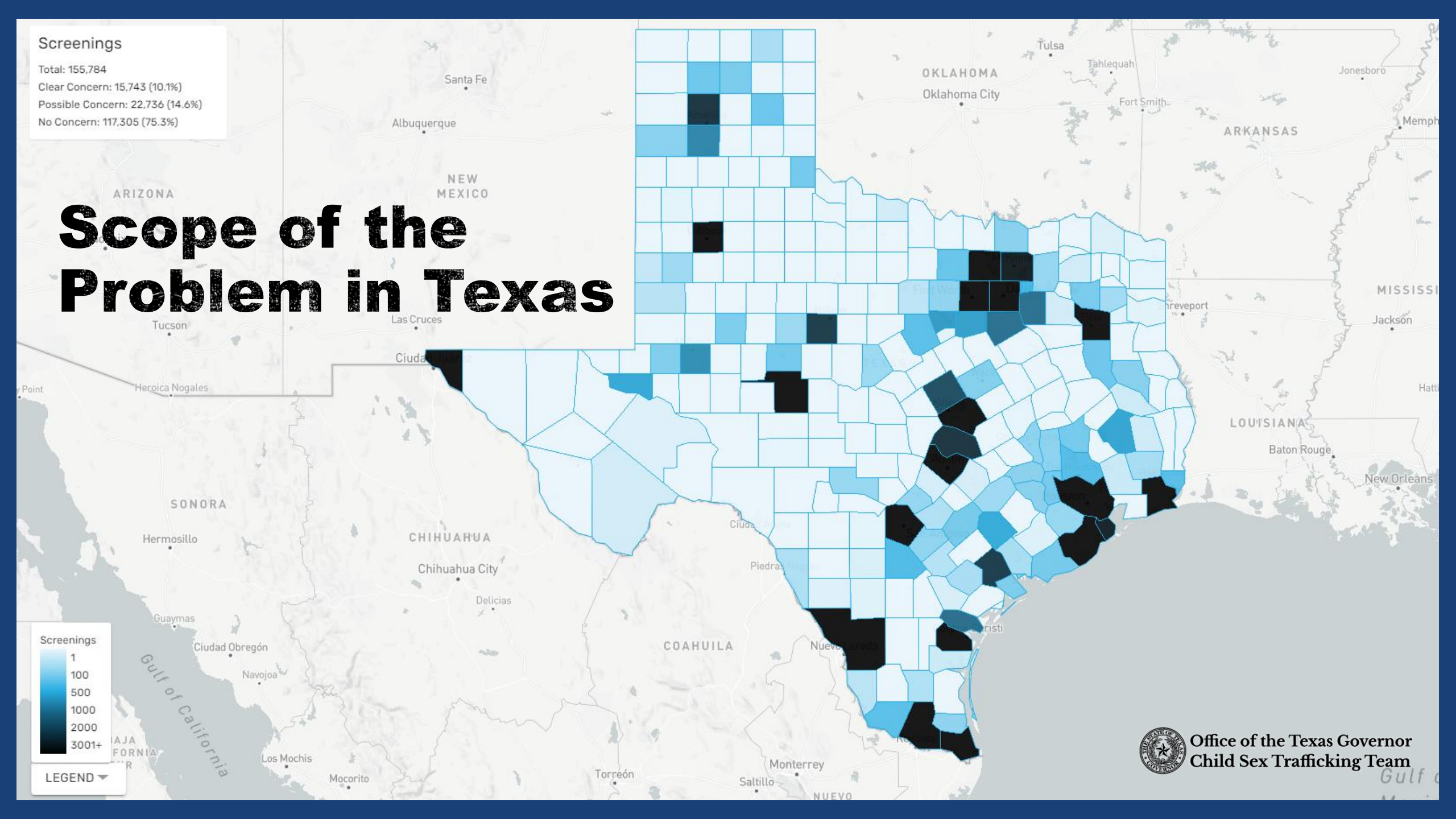
No Concern: 117,305 (75.3%)

Scope of the Problem in Texas

Screenings



LEGEND



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Universal Screening

- Screening is the first step in identifying risk
- Goals:
 - Prevention
 - Early intervention
- Everyone who meets pre-determined criteria is screened
 - CSE-IT: 10 years old and over
- Screening is *not* diagnostic

(Property of WestCoast, 2020)





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CSE-IT Principles

The CSE-IT is:

- An information integration tool
- Built on the premise of universal screening
- Encourages thinking systematically about indicators
- Can be used in various systems and settings
- Is a research-based tool

(Property of WestCoast, 2020)

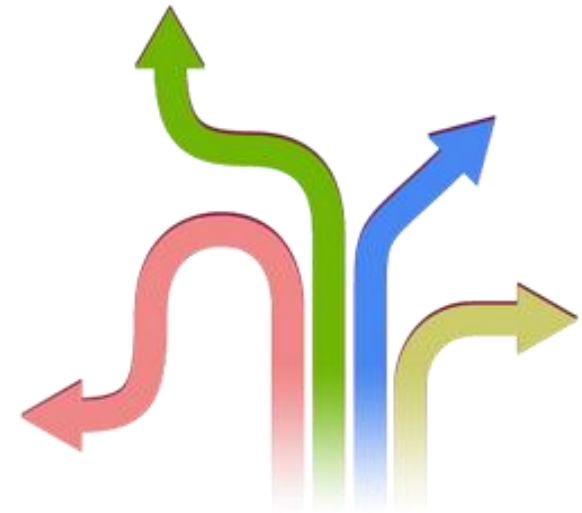


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Pathways into “The Life”

- 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)





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Underlying Unmet Needs

- Safety
- Stability
- Reliability/consistency
- Containment
- Relationship
- Love
- Connection
- A sense of value
- Patience
- Time
- Understanding
- Protection
- Self-Esteem
- Commitment
- Opportunities for development
- Opportunities to make mistakes



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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

(Property of WestCoast, 2020)





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Impossible Choices

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

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

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

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?

Commercial Sexual
Exploitation
Identification Tool
(CSE-IT)

Awareness
Campaigns

Training

Signage

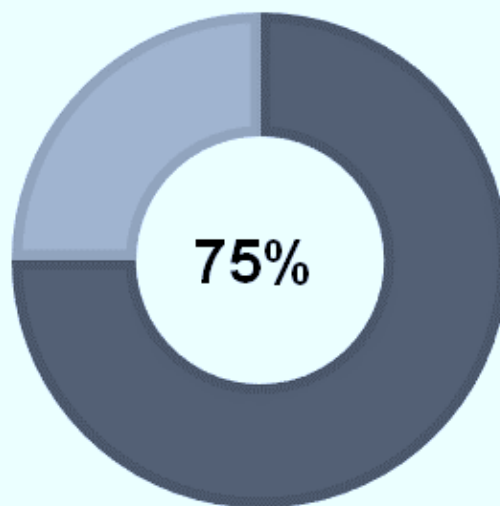


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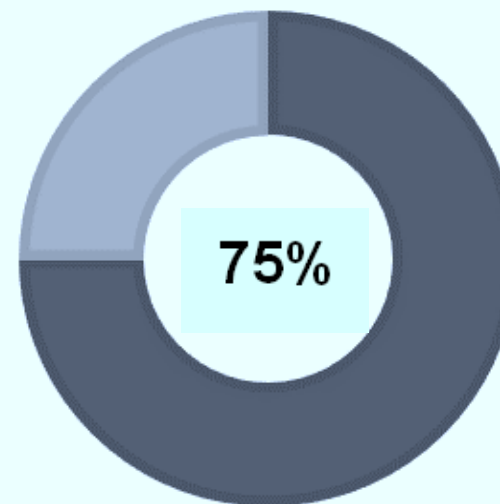
Commercial Sexual Exploitation Identification Tool (CSE-IT)

Youth who have been Commercially Sexually Exploited Generally Don't Outcry

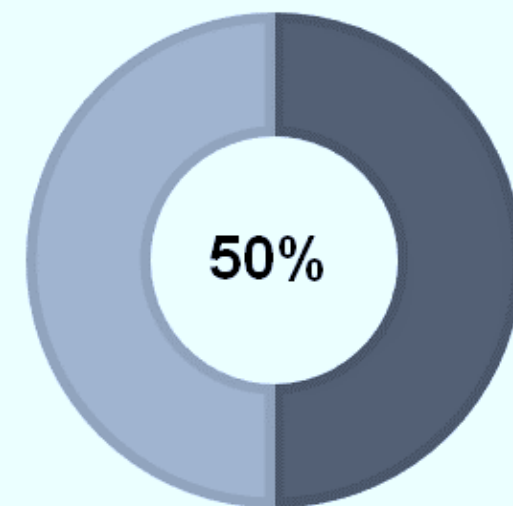
A study of exploited youth in 10 different non-profits serving child sex trafficking victims found that:



Exploitation ongoing for
two or more years



Don't see themselves as
being exploited



14 or younger when
exploitation started



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WestCoast Children's Clinic
Commercial Sexual Exploitation Identification Tool (CSE-IT) – version 2.0

	No Information	No Concern	Possible Concern	Clear Concern
1. HOUSING AND CAREGIVING. The youth experiences housing or caregiving instability for any reason.	0	0	1	2
a. Youth runs away or frequently leaves their residence for extended periods of time (overnight, days, weeks).	0	0	1	2
b. Youth experiences unstable housing, including multiple foster/group home placements.	0	0	1	2
c. Youth experiences periods of homelessness, e.g. living on the street or couch surfing.	0	0	1	2
d. Youth relies on emergency or temporary resources to meet basic needs, e.g. hygiene, shelter, food, medical care.	0	0	1	2
e. Parent/caregiver is unable to provide adequate supervision.	0	0	1	2
f. Youth has highly irregular school attendance, including frequent or prolonged tardiness or absences.	0	0	1	2
g. Youth has current or past involvement with the child welfare system.	0	0	1	2
Indicator 1 score: Item ratings 4-5 indicate Possible Concern. Item ratings 1-3 indicate Clear Concern.	No Information	No Concern	Possible Concern	Clear Concern
2. PRIOR ABUSE OR TRAUMA. The youth has experienced trauma (not including exploitation).	0	0	1	2
a. Youth has been sexually abused.	0	0	1	2
b. Youth has been physically abused.	0	0	1	2
c. Youth has been emotionally abused.	0	0	1	2
d. Youth has witnessed domestic violence.	0	0	1	2
Indicator 2 score: Item ratings = 2 indicate Possible Concern. Item ratings = 3 indicate Clear Concern.	No Information	No Concern	Possible Concern	Clear Concern
3. PHYSICAL HEALTH AND APPEARANCE. The youth experiences notable changes in health and appearance.	0	0	1	2
a. Youth experiences significant change in appearance, e.g. dress, hygiene, weight.	0	0	1	2
b. Youth has signs of physical trauma, such as bruises, black eyes, cigarette burns, or broken bones.	0	0	1	2
c. Youth has tattoos, scarring or branding indicating they are treated as someone's property.	0	0	1	2
d. Youth has repeated or concerning testing or treatment for pregnancy or STIs.	0	0	1	2
e. Youth is sleep deprived or sleep is inconsistent.	0	0	1	2
f. Youth has health problems or complaints related to poor nutrition or not having access to regular meals.	0	0	1	2
g. Youth's substance use impacts their health or interferes with their ability to function.	0	0	1	2
h. The youth experiences significant change or escalation in their substance use.	0	0	1	2
Indicator 3 score: Item ratings 2-3 indicate Possible Concern. Item ratings = 4 indicate Clear Concern.	No Information	No Concern	Possible Concern	Clear Concern
4. ENVIRONMENT AND EXPOSURE. The youth's environment or activities place them at risk of exploitation.	0	0	1	2
a. Youth engages in sexual activities that cause harm or place them at risk of victimization.	0	0	1	2
b. Youth spends time where exploitation is known to occur.	0	0	1	2
c. Youth uses language or statements that suggest involvement in exploitation.	0	0	1	2

What is the CSE-IT?



CSE-IT Rating Options

To be assigned to all ***Statements to Consider***

- **No Information (0)** – Not enough information to determine a rating at this time.
- **No Concern (0)** – Information suggests no concern is warranted at this time (“ruled out”).
- **Possible Concern (1)** – Watch and wait. Information indicates the problem is not serious or chronic or providers have some, but not all, of the information. Evidence of a past problem may also be rated here (a “historical 1”).
- **Clear Concern (2)** – Clear, concerning information determined from observations, report, or client records.



1 – Housing and Caregiving

1. HOUSING AND CAREGIVING. The youth experiences housing or caregiving instability for any reason.	No Information	No Concern	Possible Concern	Clear Concern
a. Youth runs away or frequently leaves their residence for extended periods of time (overnight, days, weeks).	0	0	1	2
b. Youth experiences unstable housing, including multiple foster/group home placements.	0	0	1	2
c. Youth experiences periods of homelessness, e.g. living on the street or couch surfing.	0	0	1	2
d. Youth relies on emergency or temporary resources to meet basic needs, e.g. hygiene, shelter, food, medical care.	0	0	1	2
e. Parent/caregiver is unable to provide adequate supervision.	0	0	1	2
f. Youth has highly irregular school attendance, including frequent or prolonged tardiness or absences.	0	0	1	2
g. Youth has current or past involvement with the child welfare system. ∞	0	0	1	2
Indicator 1 Score: A subtotal of 0 to 3 = <i>No Concern</i> . A subtotal of 4 or 5 = <i>Possible Concern</i> . A subtotal from 6 to 14 = <i>Clear Concern</i> . Circle score here →	0	No Concern 0	Possible Concern 1	Clear Concern 2

More information on the Key Indicators and Statements to Consider can be found in the CSE-IT Manual.



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2 – Prior Abuse or Trauma

2. PRIOR ABUSE OR TRAUMA. The youth has experienced trauma (not including exploitation).	No Information	No Concern	Possible Concern	Clear Concern
a. Youth has been sexually abused. ∞	0	0	1	2
b. Youth has been physically abused. ∞	0	0	1	2
c. Youth has been emotionally abused. ∞	0	0	1	2
d. Youth has witnessed domestic violence. ∞	0	0	1	2
Indicator 2 Score: A subtotal of 0 or 1 = <i>No Concern</i> . A subtotal of 2 = <i>Possible Concern</i> . A subtotal from 3 to 8 = <i>Clear Concern</i> . Circle score here→	0	No Concern 0	Possible Concern 1	Clear Concern 2

- * Excludes history of exploitation
- * All scored considering a youth's lifetime



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3 - Physical Health & Appearance

3. PHYSICAL HEALTH AND APPEARANCE. The youth experiences notable changes in health and appearance.	No Information	No Concern	Possible Concern	Clear Concern
a. Youth presents a significant change in appearance, e.g. dress, hygiene, weight.	0	0	1	2
b. Youth shows signs of physical trauma, such as bruises, black eyes, cigarette burns, or broken bones.	0	0	1	2
c. Youth has tattoos, scarring or branding, indicating being treated as someone's property.	0	0	1	2
d. Youth has repeated or concerning testing or treatment for pregnancy or STIs.	0	0	1	2
e. Youth is sleep deprived or sleep is inconsistent.	0	0	1	2
f. Youth has health problems or complaints related to poor nutrition or irregular access to meals.	0	0	1	2
g. Youth's substance use impacts their health or interferes with their ability to function.	0	0	1	2
h. Youth experiences significant change or escalation in their substance use.	0	0	1	2
Indicator 3 Score: A subtotal of 0 or 1 = <i>No Concern</i> . A subtotal of 2 or 3 = <i>Possible Concern</i> . A subtotal from 4 to 16 = <i>Clear Concern</i> . Circle score here →	0	No Concern 0	Possible Concern 1	Clear Concern 2



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4 – Environment & Exposure

4. ENVIRONMENT AND EXPOSURE. The youth's environment or activities place them at risk of exploitation.	No Information	No Concern	Possible Concern	Clear Concern
a. Youth engages in sexual activities that cause harm or place them at risk of victimization.	0	0	1	2
b. Youth spends time where exploitation is known to occur.	0	0	1	2
c. Youth uses language that suggests involvement in exploitation.	0	0	1	2
d. Youth is connected to people who are exploited, or who buy or sell sex.	0	0	1	2
e. Youth is bullied or targeted about exploitation.	0	0	1	2
f. Youth has current or past involvement with law enforcement or juvenile justice.∞	0	0	1	2
g. Youth has gang affiliation/contact that involves unsafe sexual encounters.	0	0	1	2
Indicator 4 Score: A subtotal of 0 = No Concern. A subtotal of 1 = Possible Concern. A subtotal from 2 to 14 = Clear Concern. Circle score here →	0	No Concern 0	Possible Concern 1	Clear Concern 2



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5-Relationships & Personal Belongings

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



6 – Signs of Current Trauma

6. SIGNS OF CURRENT TRAUMA. The youth exhibits signs of trauma exposure.	No Information	No Concern	Possible Concern	Clear Concern
a. Youth appears on edge, preoccupied with safety, or hypervigilant.	0	0	1	2
b. Youth has difficulty detecting or responding to danger cues.	0	0	1	2
c. Youth engages in self-destructive, aggressive, or risk-taking behaviors.	0	0	1	2
d. Youth has a high level of distress about being accessible by cell phone.	0	0	1	2
Indicator 6 Score: A subtotal of 0 = <i>No Concern</i> . A subtotal of 1 or 2 = <i>Possible Concern</i> . A subtotal from 3 to 8 = <i>Clear Concern</i> . Circle score here →	0	No Concern 0	Possible Concern 1	Clear Concern 2



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7 – Coercion

7. COERCION. The youth is being controlled or coerced by another person.	No Information	No Concern	Possible Concern	Clear Concern
a. Youth has an abusive or controlling intimate partner.	0	0	1	2
b. Someone else is controlling the youth's contact with family or friends, leaving the youth socially isolated.	0	0	1	2
c. Youth is coerced into getting pregnant, having an abortion, or using contraception.	0	0	1	2
d. Someone is not allowing the youth to sleep regularly or in a safe place, go to school, eat, or meet other basic needs.	0	0	1	2
e. The youth or their friends, family, or other acquaintances receive threats.	0	0	1	2
f. Youth gives vague or misleading information about their age, whereabouts, residence, or relationships.	0	0	1	2
Indicator 7 Score: A subtotal of 0 = <i>No Concern</i> . A subtotal of 1 = <i>Possible Concern</i> . A subtotal of 2 to 12 = <i>Clear Concern</i> . Circle score here →	0	No Concern 0	Possible Concern 1	Clear Concern 2



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8 - Exploitation

8. EXPLOITATION. The youth exchanges sex for money or material goods, including food or shelter.	No Information	No Concern	Possible Concern	Clear Concern
a. Youth is exchanging sex for money or material goods, including food or shelter for themselves or someone else, e.g. child, family, partner.	0	0	1	2
b. Youth is watched, filmed or photographed in a sexually explicit manner.	0	0	1	2
c. Youth has a history of sexual exploitation. ∞	0	0	1	2
d. Youth is forced to give the money they earn to another person.	0	0	1	2
Indicator 8 Score: A subtotal of 0 = No Concern. A subtotal of 1 = Possible Concern. A subtotal from 2 to 8 = Clear Concern. Circle score here →	0	No Concern 0	Possible Concern 1	Clear Concern 2



Scoring - Tally

Indicator:		Indicator score
1. HOUSING AND CAREGIVING		
2. PRIOR ABUSE OR TRAUMA		
3. PHYSICAL HEALTH AND APPEARANCE		
4. ENVIRONMENT AND EXPOSURE		
5. RELATIONSHIPS AND PERSONAL BELONGINGS		
6. SIGNS OF CURRENT TRAUMA		
7. COERCION		
Add scores for indicators 1 through 7 (Score cannot exceed 14):	A.	
8. EXPLOITATION		
If Indicator 8 score is 1 (Possible Concern) put 4 in Box B If Indicator 8 is a 2 (Clear Concern) put 9 in Box B	B.	
TOTAL: Add boxes A and B for a total score between 0-23.	TOTAL	

⑥ Transfer Indicator scores 1-8

⑦ Total the scores for Indicators 1-7

⑧ Determine amount to be added for Indicator 8

⑨ Add A plus B to find total CSE-IT score

Please Note: There are special scoring instructions for Indicator 8.

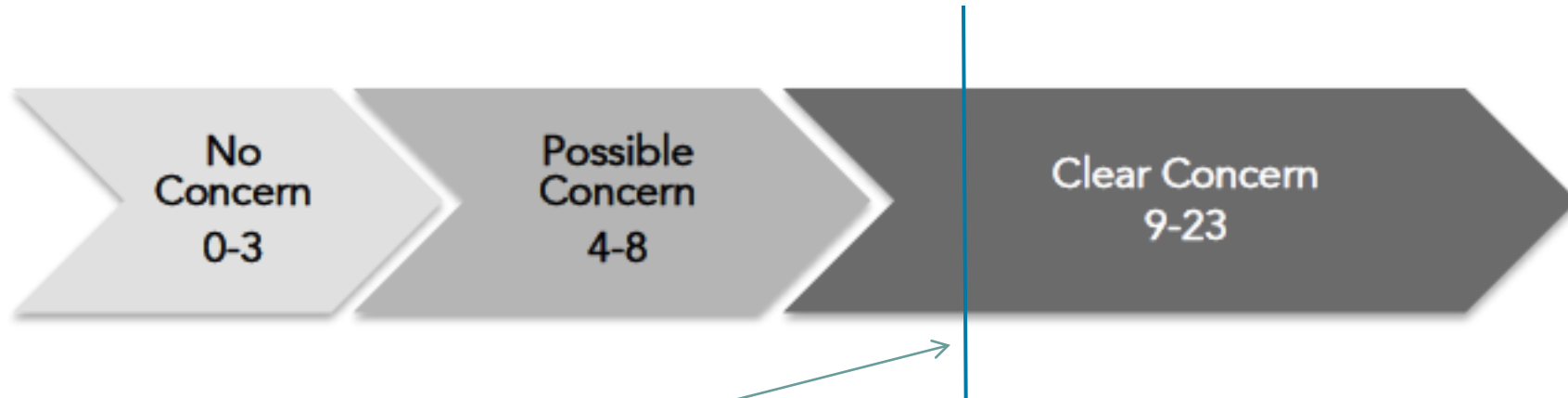


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Scoring – Understanding Risk

Continuum of Concern

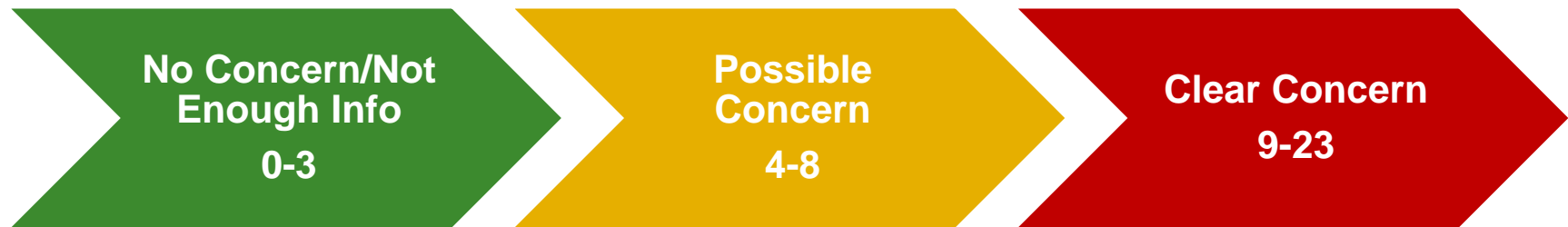
(draw a line indicating level of concern for exploitation)



- ⑩ Plot the total score to indicate level of concern or risk for exploitation.

Commercial Sexual Exploitation Identification Tool (CSE-IT)

Implementing the Tool



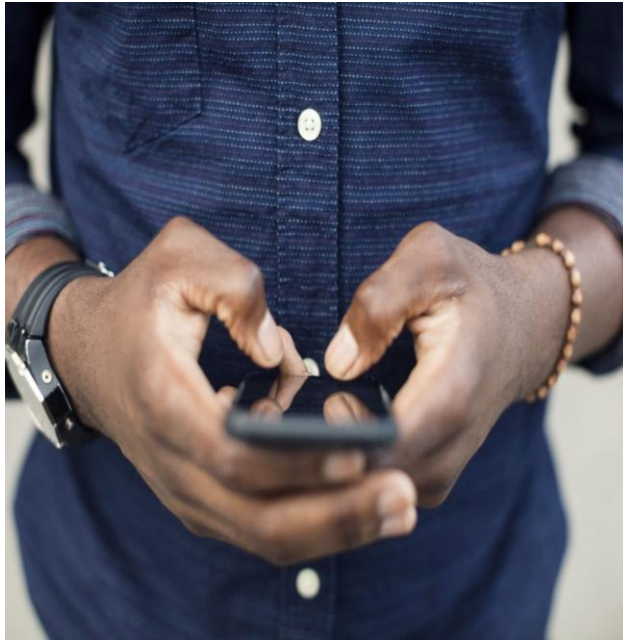
A “clear concern” score means that a child/youth meets criteria for mandatory reporting of suspected child abuse and service delivery, including referrals to Care Coordination, CSEY Advocate Services, and other specialized services available.

Mandated Reporting

Human trafficking is a crime under international, federal, and many state laws.

If a mandated reporter *suspects* that a child is being commercially sexually exploited, a child abuse report *must* be filed.

- You do not need to know the name or age of the exploiter to report concern to DFPS.
- The exploiter does not need to live with the youth to report concern to DFPS.



If one is in immediate danger call 911.

To make a child abuse report contact DFPS Statewide Intake

- 1.800.252.5400
- www.txabusehotline.org



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To Report Human Trafficking Tips

iWatch Texas
Community Reporting
System

- Report suspicious activities or behaviors that may indicate criminal, terroristic, or school safety-related threats.

www.iwatchTexas.org



**Office of the Texas Governor
Child Sex Trafficking Team**



Photo by Allison Buttigieg

Trauma Can Make Victims Seem Complicit in Their Own Exploitation

Flight

Fight

Freeze

Submit/Fawn



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Trauma Bonding



Understanding Trauma Bonds Between Traffickers and Their Victims,
Amanda Gopal, LCSW, May 13, 2020. www.ncjtc.com at the Fox Valley
Technical College



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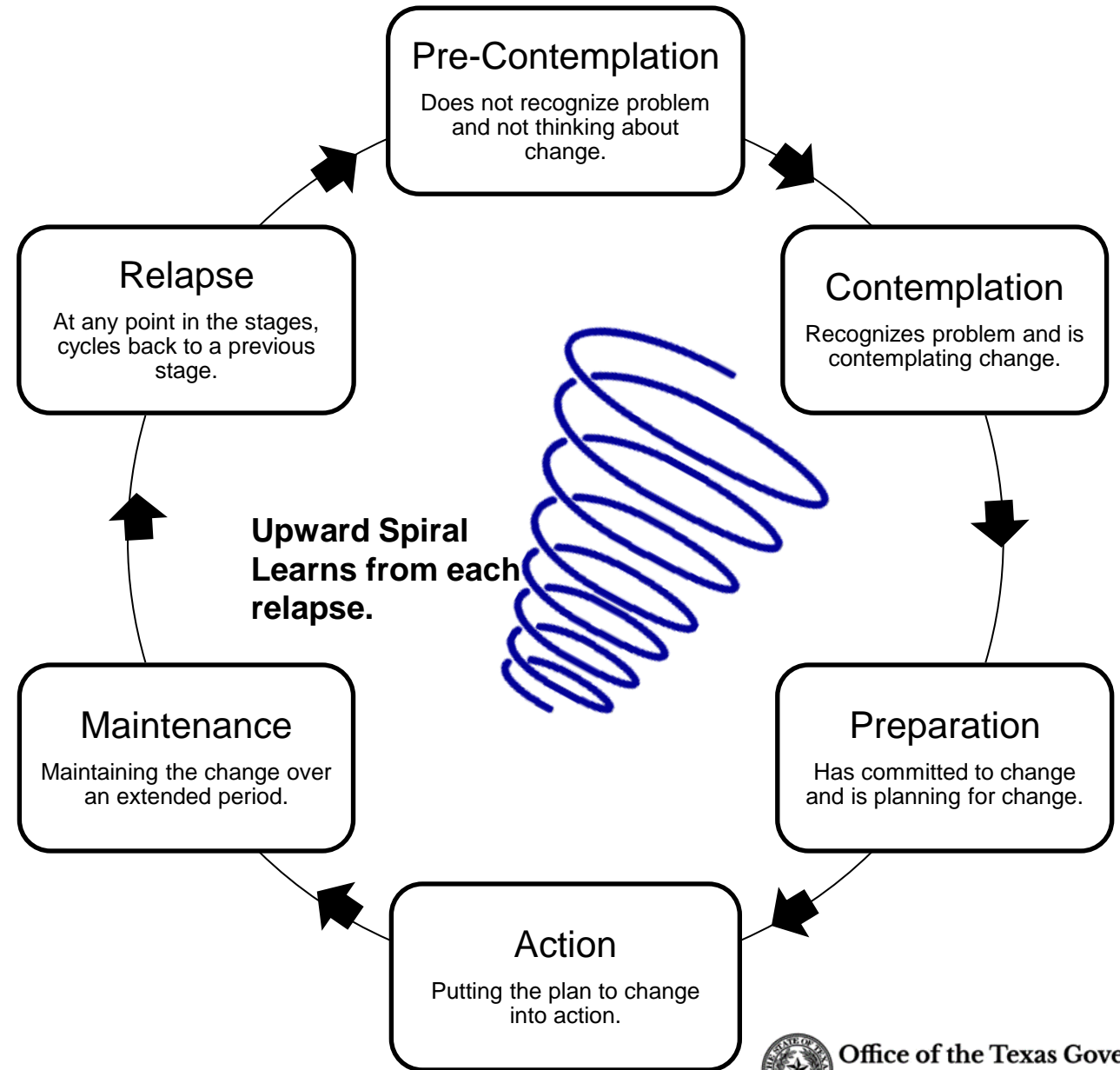
Even When Ready for Help, Trauma Makes Help Hard to Give and Receive



- Triggered by authority figures, telling their story, feeling rejected, power struggles, and random things like smells, locations
- Difficulty regulating affective impulses such as anger and self-destructiveness
- Dissociative episodes (mentally disconnect from body)
- Difficulty trusting people or feeling intimate
- Making choices that repeat destructive patterns
- Hopelessness or despair
- Somatic or medical problems
- A chronic sense of shame (blame self for victimization)



Escape and Healing from Exploitation is Cyclical and Often Includes Multiple Recoveries





CSE-IT TRAINING FOR LAW ENFORCEMENT AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE PERSONNEL

OBJECTIVE:

Law enforcement and criminal justice personnel will have a shared language with Care Coordination Team partners and other service providers across the state when discussing children and youth who display a “clear concern” of experiencing commercial sexual exploitation; ultimately, understanding the indicators that are pointing to the need for investigation and prompting an investigation by investigative partners.



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CSE-IT TRAINING FOR LAW ENFORCEMENT AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE PERSONNEL

STRATEGY:

- Regional Advisor Kellye Turner will provide CSE-IT training from a law enforcement perspective utilizing the WestCoast Children's Clinic (WCC) approved training curriculum.
- This training is eligible for 6 TCOLE training hours.
- Provide a minimum of 2 virtual CSE-IT for LE training sessions per year.
- Provide a minimum of 5 in-person CSE-IT training sessions per year (at least 1 in each CSTT region).



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161 Counties with CSEY Advocacy

NORTH

- [Traffick911](#) (Dallas & 5 nearby counties)
- [Unbound North Texas](#) (Tarrant & 5 nearby counties)

SOUTH

- [Common Thread RGV](#) (Cameron & 17 nearby counties)
- [Common Thread Coastal Bend](#) (Aransas & 13 nearby counties)

EAST

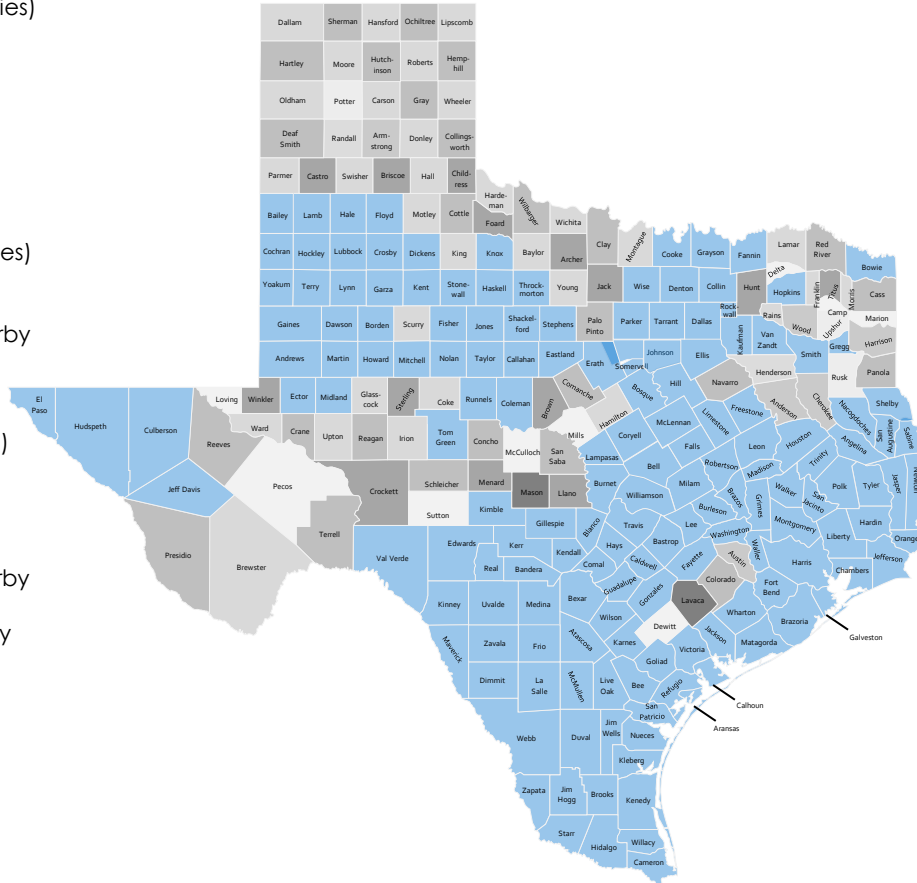
- [Common Thread East](#) (Harris & 10 nearby counties)
- [Harvest House](#) (Jefferson & 5 nearby counties)
- [Sojourn Landing](#) (Harris & 7 nearby counties)
- [Unbound Bryan College Station](#) (Brazos & 7 nearby counties)
- [Unbound East Texas](#) (Angelina & 8 nearby counties)
- [Unbound Houston](#) (Brazoria & 3 nearby counties)
- [YMCA International](#) (Harris & 7 nearby counties)

WEST

- [Midland County](#) (Midland & 1 nearby county)
- [Paso del Norte Center of Hope](#) (El Paso & 3 nearby counties)
- [Regional Victim Crisis Center](#) (Taylor & 16 nearby counties)
- [Voice of Hope](#) (Lubbock & 21 nearby counties)

CENTRAL

- [AWARE Central Texas](#) (Bell & 4 nearby counties)
- [Common Thread Central](#) (Bexar & 19 nearby counties)
- [SAFE](#) (Travis & 2 nearby counties)
- [Thriving Hearts](#) (Gonzales & 1 nearby County)
- [Unbound Austin](#) (Travis & 4 nearby counties)
- [Unbound Waco](#) (McLennan & 6 nearby counties)



❖ 13 CSEY Advocacy Agencies

❖ Crisis Response, Long-Term Supportive Relationships & Case Management



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Care Coordination Teams

Care Coordination Teams across Texas | Develop Recommendations for and Facilitate Access to Services for Child and Youth Victims.

NORTH

- **Dallas County CCT**
- **Denton County CCT**
- **Ellis County CCT**

SOUTH

- **Hidalgo County CCT-in development**

EAST

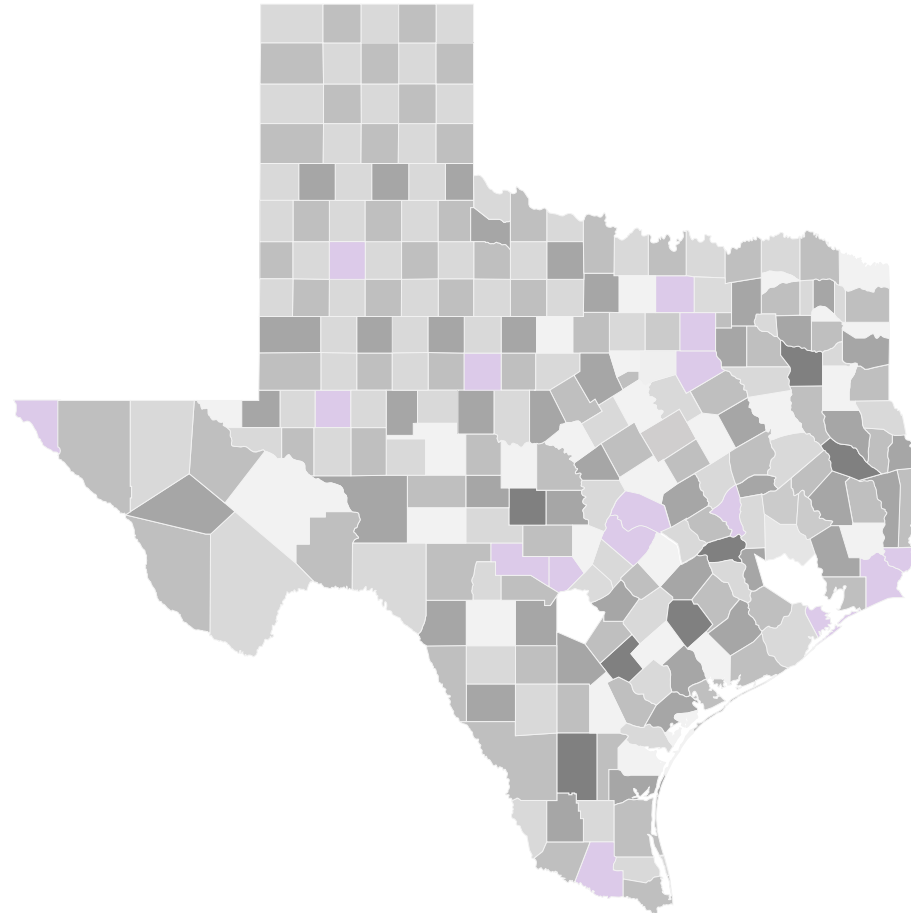
- **Harris County CCT**
- **Jefferson and Orange Counties CCT**
- **Galveston County CCT**
- **Montgomery County***
- **Brazos County***
- **Brazoria County-in development**
- * **Fort Bend County – in development**

CENTRAL

- **Bexar County CCT**
- **McLennan County CCT**
- **Kendall County CCT-in development**
- **Kerr County CCT***
- **Travis County CCT**
- **Williamson County CCT**

WEST

- **El Paso County CCT**
- **Lubbock County CCT**
- **Midland County CCT**
- **Taylor County CCT**



**Care Coordination is in the process of transitioning and launching with a new Care Coordinator to serve youth with clear concern for exploitation and confirmed victims of commercial sexual exploitation.*

Questions?

If you would like to schedule CSE-IT for LE/CJ training for your department, please contact:

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Solutions Lead

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