

THE CASE FOR UNIVERSAL CSEC SCREENING IN JUVENILE AND FAMILY COURT

Presentation by
King County Juvenile Court

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WHAT IS CSEC?

The **Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children (CSEC)** is also called **Sex Trafficking of Children**

Sex trafficking is the recruitment, harboring, transportation, provision, obtaining, **patronizing**, or **soliciting** of a person for the purposes of a commercial sex act, in which the commercial sex act is induced by force, fraud, or coercion, **or** in which the person induced to perform such an act has not attained 18 years of age (22 USC § 7102).

“The term ‘**commercial sex act**’ means any sex act on account of which anything of value is given to or received by any person” (22 U.S.C. 7102 (4)).

MINOR + COMMERCIAL SEX ACT = TRAFFICKING

UNIVERSAL SCREENING FOR CSEC - WHY

Even without a formalized universal screening program, from **April 2014** through **March 2018**, Juvenile Court referred **159 youth** to community-based services for trafficking survivors.

We knew we were under referring boys and male identified youth to services.

We wanted to identify youth earlier and provide more opportunities to connect with community based services. Dr. Boyer's [2019 report](#) indicated that youth often went years before getting services.

We wanted to honor Rebecca Hedman and the intention of the “Becca Bill” and integrate Juvenile and Becca Programs.

UNIVERSAL SCREENING — PEOPLE POWER

In April 2021 CSEC Policy & Program Manager was the sole employee in the CSEC Program. She successfully received federal funding via the 2021 OVC FY 2021 Enhancing Juvenile and Family Court Responses to Human Trafficking solicitation

This funding allowed for:

- **Hiring of the CSEC Coordinator and Screener**
- Additional Training Content
- Training of CSEC Coordinator & Screener and CSEC Policy and Program Manager and select others to be trained to use the [CSE-IT](#)

Prior to using the CSE-IT approximately 3% of youth in juvenile court/family court were referred to CSEC specific services. Currently over 10% of youth in juvenile court/family court are referred to CSEC specific services.

UNIVERSAL SCREENING — HOW: PICKING A TOOL

CSE-IT

WestCoast's *Commercial Sexual Exploitation-Identification Tool (CSE-IT)*, pronounced “see it”) is a validated screening tool that helps identify children who are commercially sexually exploited (CSE).

- The CSE-IT is appropriate for use by any provider serving youth, including child welfare workers, **probation officers**, mental health clinicians, and first responders. The CSE-IT is designed to improve early identification of youth who are experiencing commercial sexual exploitation of children (CSEC) and human trafficking.

This human trafficking screening tool was developed with the input of over 100 survivors and service providers. Moreover, the CSE-IT has been validated with data from a 15-month pilot to ensure that it accurately identifies youth who have clear indicators of exploitation. The CSE-IT has robust statistical and qualitative evidence to support its use.

CSE-IT — WHAT ARE THE QUESTIONS

8 domains

- Housing and caregiving
- Prior abuse or trauma
- Physical health and appearance
- Environment and Exposure
- Relationships and personal Belongings
- Signs of current trauma
- Coercion
- Exploitation

Most questions are about current status with the following looking at lifetime:

- Youth has current or past involvement with the child welfare system
- Youth has been sexually abused, physically abused, emotionally abused
- Youth has witnessed domestic violence
- **Youth has current or past involvement with law enforcement or juvenile justice**
- Youth has a history of sexual exploitation

CSE-IT

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.				
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 = No Concern. A subtotal of 4 or 5 = Possible Concern. A subtotal from 6 to 14 = Clear Concern. Circle score here →	0	No Concern 0	Possible Concern 5	Clear Concern 14
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 = No Concern. A subtotal of 2 = Possible Concern. A subtotal from 3 to 6 = Clear Concern. Circle score here →	0	No Concern 0	Possible Concern 2	Clear Concern 6
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 = No Concern. A subtotal of 2 or 3 = Possible Concern. A subtotal from 4 to 16 = Clear Concern. Circle score here →	0	No Concern 0	Possible Concern 3	Clear Concern 16
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 going 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 14
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

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	0	0	1	2
a. 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 0 = No Concern. A subtotal of 1 or 2 = Possible Concern. A subtotal from 3 to 12 = Clear Concern. Circle score here →	0	No Concern 0	Possible Concern 2	Clear Concern 12
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 = No Concern. A subtotal of 1 or 2 = Possible Concern. A subtotal from 3 to 8 = Clear Concern. Circle score here →	0	No Concern 0	Possible Concern 2	Clear Concern 8
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 relationship.	0	0	1	2
Indicator 7 Score: A subtotal of 0 = No Concern. A subtotal of 1 = Possible Concern. A subtotal of 2 to 12 = Clear Concern. Circle score here →	0	No Concern 0	Possible Concern 1	Clear Concern 12
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 8

Scoring Instructions:

- Enter each Indicator Score in the corresponding box in this table.
- Add Indicator Scores 1 through 7 and enter the total in box A.
- If Indicator 8 score = 1 (Possible Concern), enter 4 in box B. If Indicator 8 score = 2 (Clear Concern), enter 9 in box B.
- Add boxes A and B for a Total Score between 0 and 23 and enter the Total Score in the final box.
- Plot the Total Score on the Continuum of Concern below to determine level of concern for exploitation.

Continuum of Concern (draw a line indicating level of concern for exploitation)

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



CSE-IT – HOW IT IS SCORED

Total Score between 0 and 23



UNIVERSAL SCREENING — HOW: SCREENING

CSEC Coordinator & Screener uses the same process to screen 502 youth.

She reviews all available information in the King County Superior Court file looking at various systems

- KCMS
- JIMS
- KC SCRIPT
- JABS
- DISA — intake screens when a youth is brought to detention, some are not detained
- Ilinx — reports from probation, mental health and SUD evaluations

After reading through the case file, she can screen a youth in approximately 15 minutes. She knows where to look for the data and can quickly and efficiently review extensive court files. However, some cases require a more intense review and can take a significant amount of time, typically these are the individuals scoring Clear Concern. Being able to dedicate her time to screening allows Kris the flexibility to do a deep dive into a case as necessary.

POST SCREEN — WHAT IS NEXT?

When a youth screens as “clear concern” Program Coordinator contacts the Juvenile Probation Counselor, Becca Case Manager, Truancy Case Manager.

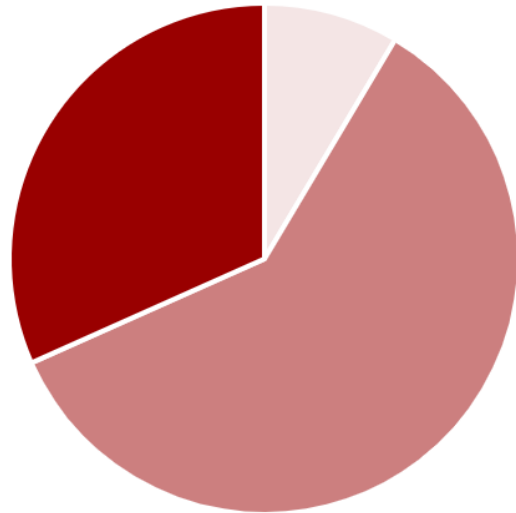
- Informs them of the score
- Asks for input on making a referral

CSEC Program Coordinator is the source of the vast majority of CSEC referrals to community-based services. She has developed relationships with providers. She attends all MDT meetings and Bridge Collaborative meetings.

While the community-based services will work directly with JPC or ARY/CHINS and Truancy Case managers, CSEC Coordinator is their first point of contact and a source of support and guidance.

DATA — WHAT ARE WE SEEING?

■ No Concern ■ Possible Concern ■ Clear Concern



From 3.28.2022 to 3.31.2023

502 youth screened using the CSE-IT

159 youth as clear concern (~32%)

300 youth as possible concern (~60%)

43 youth as no concern (~9%)

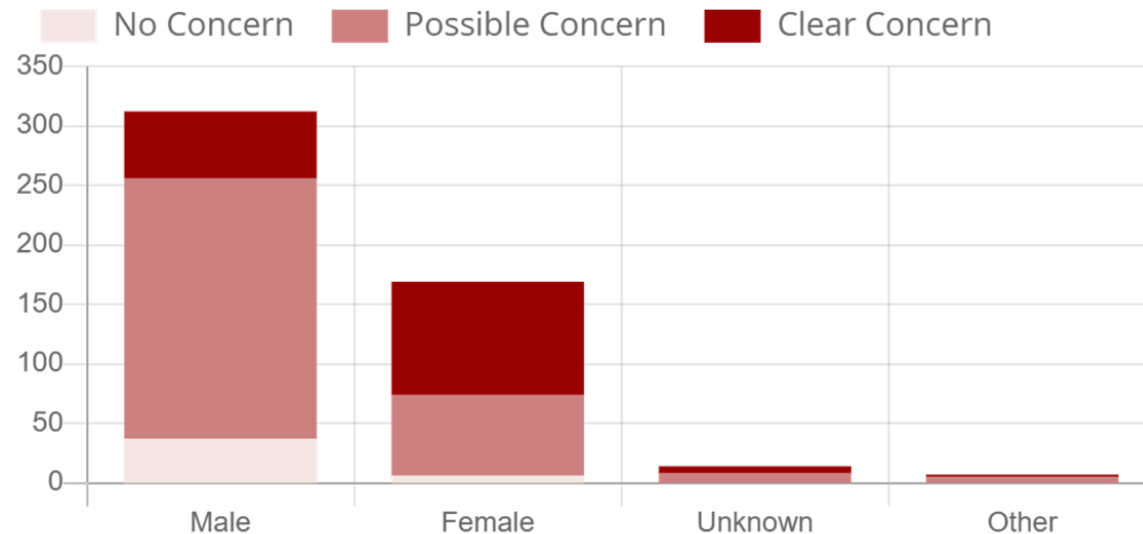
DATA — WHAT ARE WE SEEING?

Male:

- 56 clear concern (18%)
- 219 possible concern (70%)
- 37 no concern (12%)

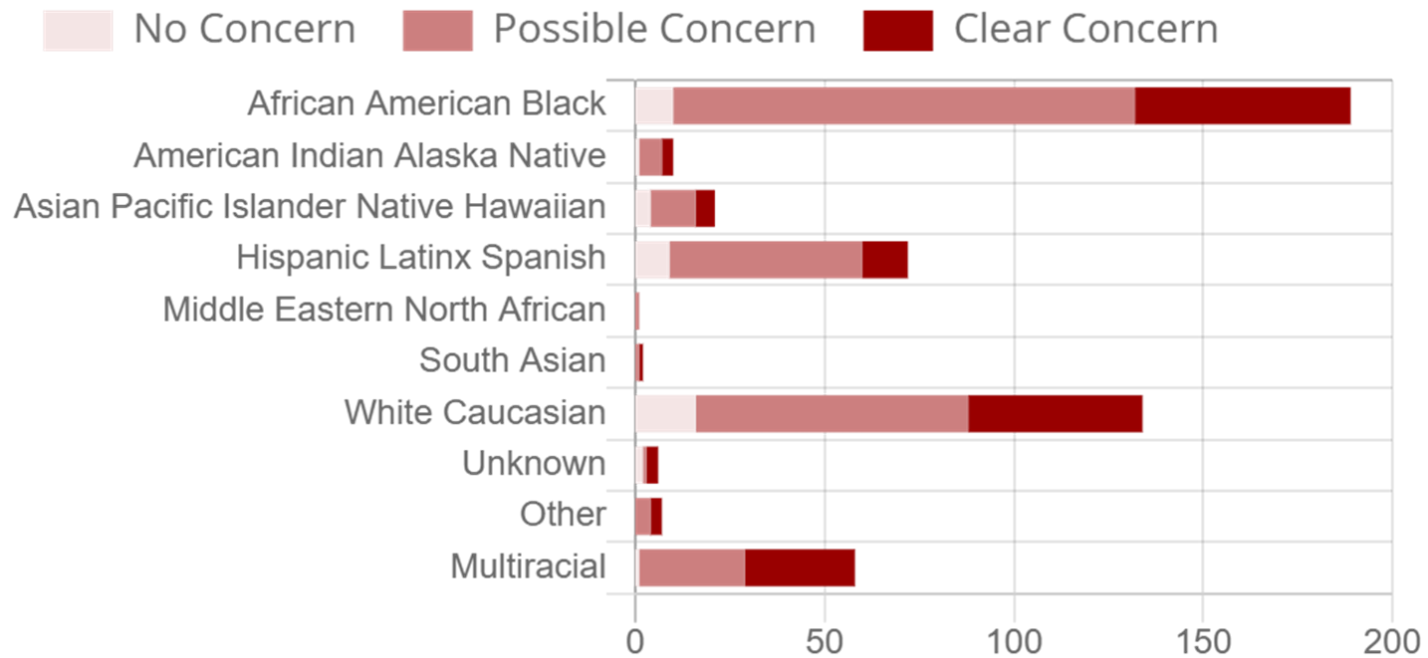
Female:

- 95 clear concern (56%)
- 68 possible concern (40%)
- 6 no concern (4%)



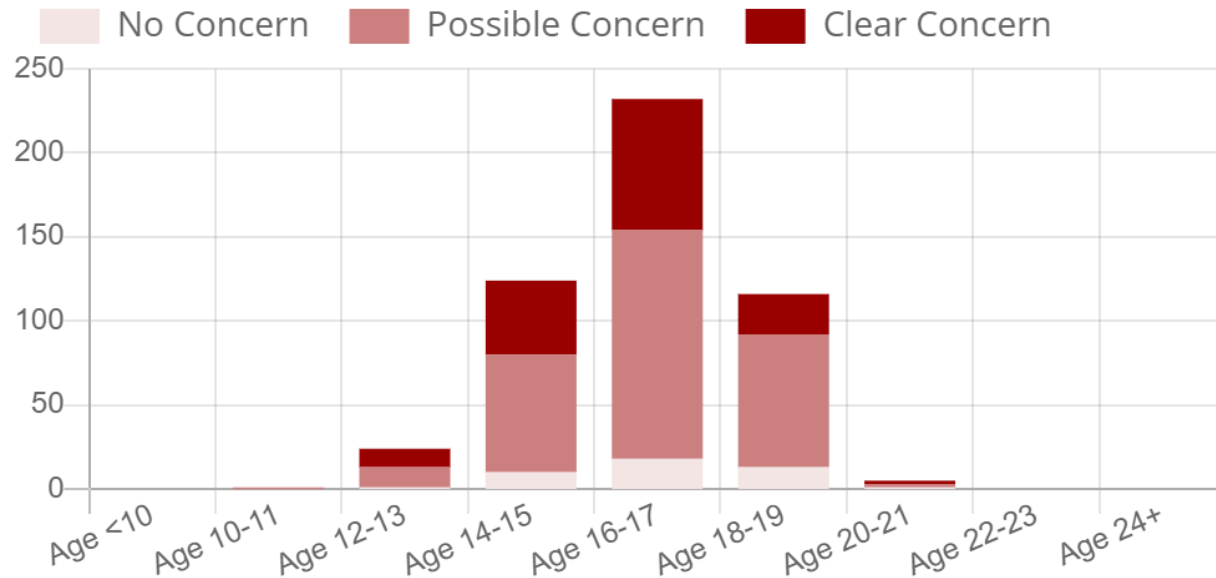
No youth who identified beyond the male/female binary was no concern.

DATA — WHAT ARE WE SEEING?



Youth are identified as clear concern across ethnicities.

DATA — WHAT ARE WE SEEING?



Average Age

No Concern: 17.14

Possible Concern: 16.86

Clear Concern: 16.52

WHAT HAVE WE LEARNED — WHILE SCREENING



The importance of consistency — make no assumptions — in the absence of information choose “No information”



It's easy to make assumptions based on information available but do not make assumptions if information is not available.



Develop a system to streamline the process — open all databases (Ilinx, KCMS, JIMS, DISA, JABS, KC Portal)
Always look at screening intake report, if available.



Be aware of own bias — we all have them, it's normal.
Being aware of them is the key to not skew outcomes.

WHAT HAVE WE LEARNED — FROM SCREENING

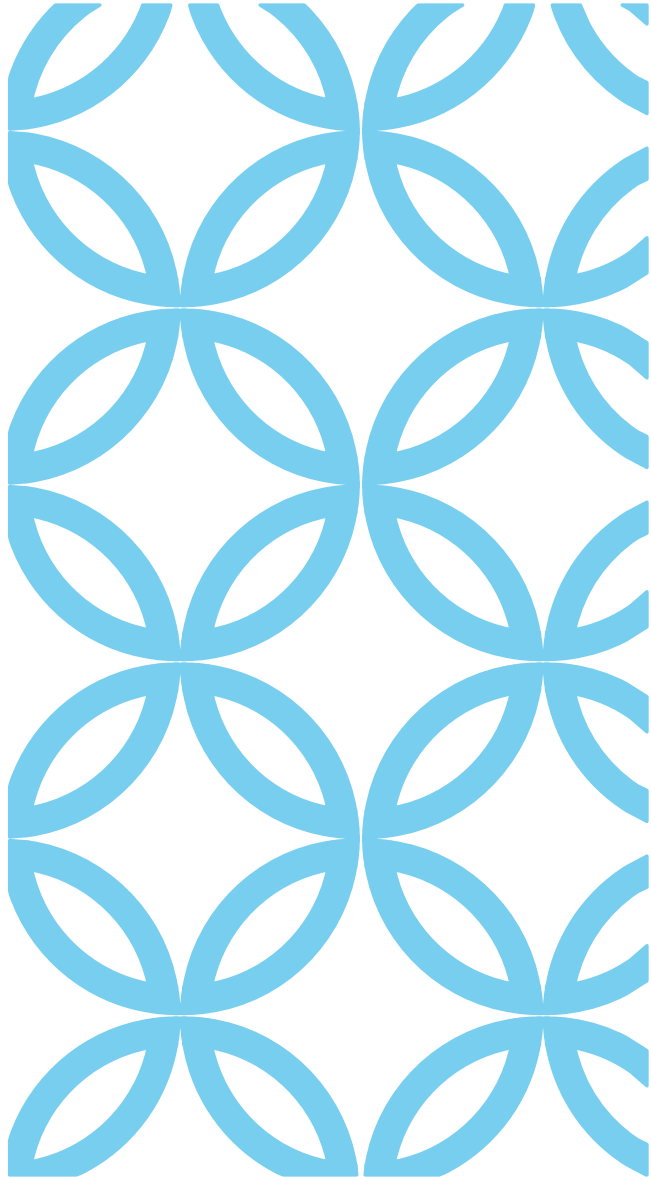
Boys are screen as clear concern and in need of connections to services

Gender variant youth screen as clear concern and in need of connections to services

Youth who are very young (11, 12, 13) who are referred to juvenile court have high levels of past trauma

Having good communication with probation staff & community based service providers is key

There are not enough specialized services to accommodate all the “clear concern” cases



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