

Project Respect 2017 Statewide Data Collection

Primary Author:

Kimberly Ong
kong@ccyj.org

Additional Project Respect Team Members:

Nicholas Oakley
noakley@ccyj.org

Kelly Martin-Vegue
kmvegue@ccyj.org



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About CCYJ and Project Respect

The Center for Children & Youth Justice (CCYJ) was founded in 2006 with a singular mission: work solely to reform the foster care and youth justice systems to improve the lives of generations of children and youth. CCYJ identifies gaps and cracks, develops innovative approaches to mending problems, and then ensures that policymakers embed those reforms into practices and procedures. The results of CCYJ's work are put into state law, adopted as standing protocols by courts and schools, and developed into new treatments and interventions for at-risk, abused or neglected children and their families. For more information, please visit <https://ccyj.org/>.

In 2011, the Center for Children & Youth Justice (CCYJ), in partnership with YouthCare, was funded by the state's Children's Justice Interdisciplinary Task Force to work statewide and develop a model protocol for providing a statewide coordinated and victim-centered response to commercially sexually exploited children. The model protocol is not only improving the lives of vulnerable youth throughout Washington, but it is also becoming a national model for easing the further traumatization of these vulnerable young people. Today, Project Respect's primary work focuses on supporting regional CSEC task forces to ensure that the protocol is being implemented effectively and providing access to additional training, data collection, and participation in the legislatively mandated CSEC Statewide Coordinating Committee. For more information, please visit: <https://ccyj.org/our-work/combating-child-sexual-exploitation/>.

Project Overview

Project Beginnings

In August 2015, the Center for Children and Youth Justice (CCYJ) began Project Respect, a commitment to collect data on Commercially Sexually Exploited Children (CSEC) in Washington State. It began with eight agencies (juvenile courts, Children’s Administration, and youth-serving social service and advocacy organizations) and has expanded to include a total of fourteen participating organizations.

The effort focuses on collecting data on

- The number of CSEC identified among youth served within agencies;
- The means of exploitation – whether through online advertisements, related to gangs, involvement in erotic dancing or pornography, etc.; and
- The demographic characteristics of CSEC – their age, sex, sexual orientation, race, ethnicity, education, and living situation.

The data collection is done through the Project Respect CSEC Checklist Data Collection Tool. The Tool is:

- Used for case file review – it is not an interview script;
- Designed for any youth, ages 11 – 17;
- Comprised of 22 questions – including CSEC identifiers and demographic questions; and
- Utilizes a semi-unique identifier to estimate cross-system and county duplication.

The Tool and collected data will better enable agencies within Washington to:

- Establish the number of CSEC served within agencies, regions, and statewide;
- Improve the ability of agency partners to identify CSEC;
- Justify resource allocation and apply for funding; and
- Advocate for policy change.

2017 Project Revision

In the second quarter of 2017, Project Respect changed its data collection process by only requiring CSEC checklists to be completed on suspected or confirmed commercially sexually exploited children cases upon identification or exit of care. Project Respect’s new data collection methodology began on April 1st, 2017. The new data collection process now requires:

- Checklists to be completed on identified or suspected CSEC – though agencies may continue to collect data on all youth if they see fit;
- Checklists to be completed upon exit of care (discharge) rather than intake or identification, to allow for more information to be collected before making an assessment; and
- Reporting the date of intake (on the checklist).

Report Overview

In the 2017 calendar year (January 1st – December 31st), 1144 unique CSEC checklists were started on youth aged 11 through 17. Of those checklists started in 2017, 480 (41.96%) checklists were not completed, 495 (43.27%) checklists were not identified as suspected or confirmed CSEC, and 169 (14.77%) checklists were identified as suspected or confirmed CSEC cases.

Because this is the first review of the data and only includes a small group of participating sites, any conclusions about differences in demographic characteristics between youth identified as CSEC and those who are not should be made with extreme caution. CCYJ did its best to account for potential duplicate cases in which a single youth may have multiple checklists within a single agency or across agencies.

Data Collection Participants

There were 16 agencies to complete one or more checklists during this yearlong duration:

- Children’s Administration Region 2
- Clark County Juvenile Court
- Cowlitz County Juvenile Court
- Excelsior Youth Center
- Friends of Youth
- Kennewick Police Department
- King County Juvenile Court
- Lutheran Community Services NW
- Mirror Ministries
- Northwest Youth Services
- Oasis Teen Shelter and Daylight Center
- Spokane Juvenile Court (Becca)
- Spokane Juvenile Court (Supervision)
- Whatcom County Juvenile Court
- Yakima County Juvenile Detention
- YouthCare

Not all agencies reported non-CSEC youth, so the information in the following report should not be used as a measure of CSEC prevalence.

Data Highlights

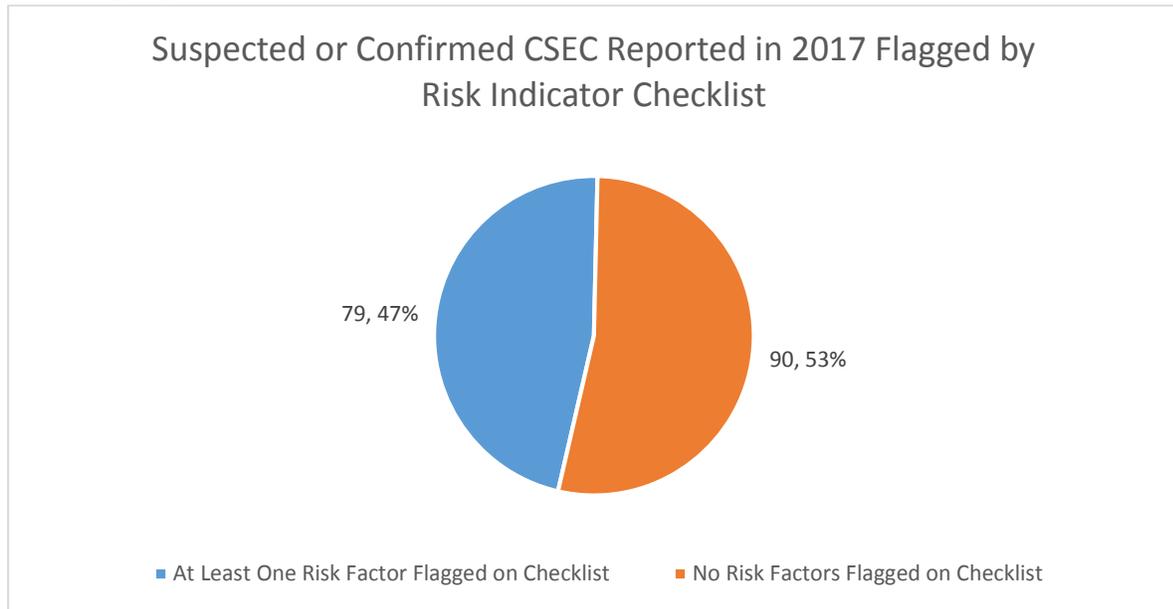


Figure 1: Of 169 suspected or confirmed CSEC reported by case authors in 2017, 79 (47%) had at least one risk factor flagged on the risk indicator checklist, while 90 (53%) were not flagged by the checklist.

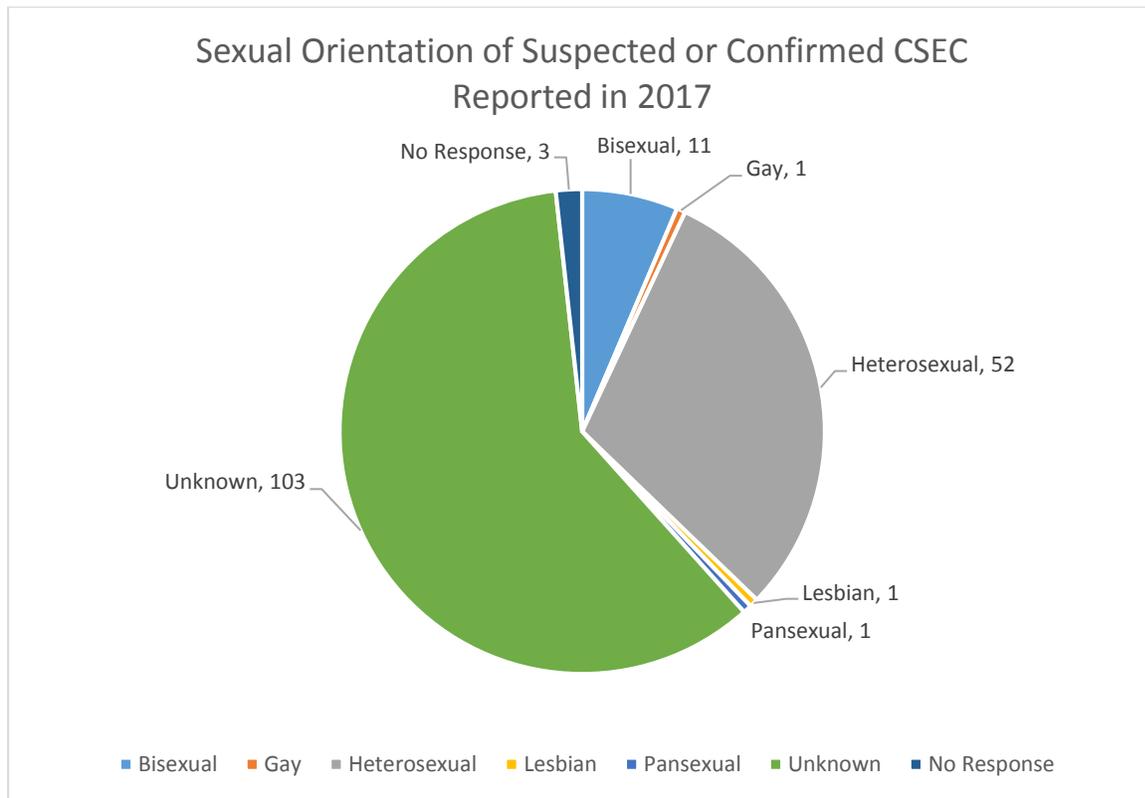


Figure 2: Of 169 suspected or confirmed CSEC reported by case authors in 2017, 52 (30.7%) self-identified as heterosexual, 1 (0.6%) self-identified as gay, 1 (0.6%) self-identified as lesbian, 11 (6.5%) self-identified as bisexual, 1 (0.6%) self-identified as pansexual, 103 (60.9%) did not report a sexual orientation, 3 (1.8%) did not respond.

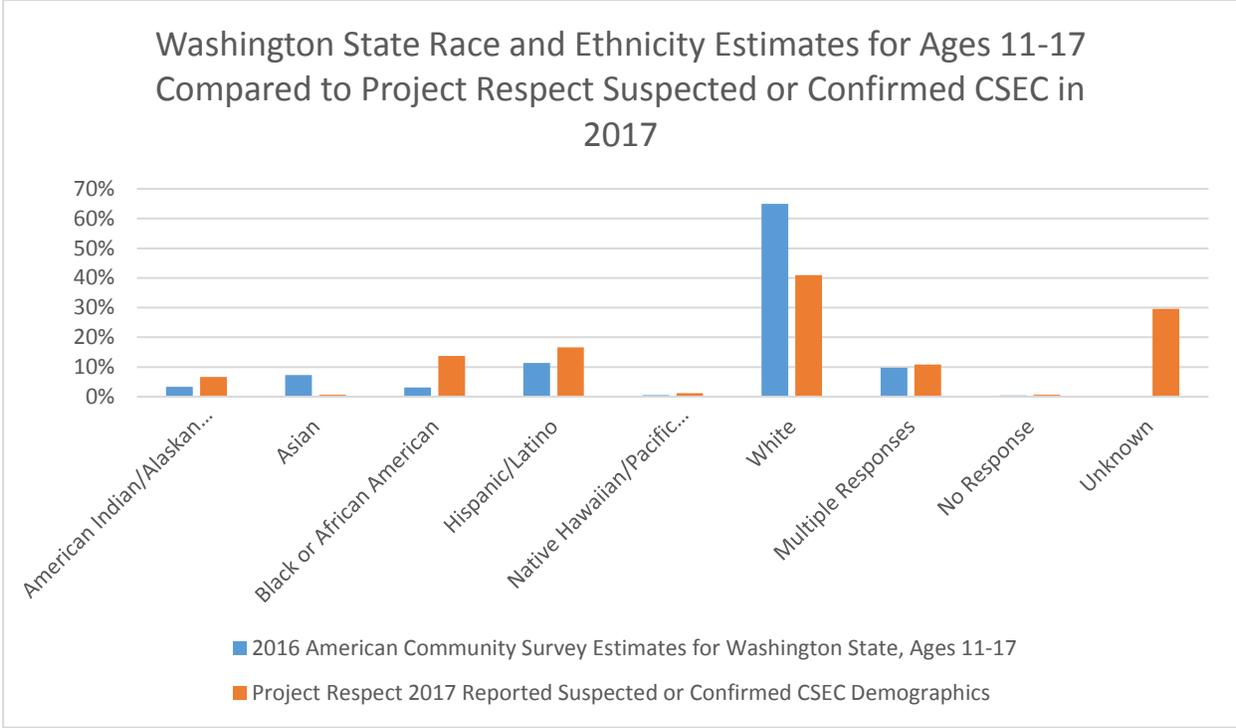


Figure 3: When comparing the demographic information of the 169 suspected or confirmed CSEC reported by case authors in 2017 to 2016 Washington State demographic data for youth ages 11-17 from the American Community Survey, American Indian/Alaskan Native youth identified as CSEC were overrepresented, Asian youth identified as CSEC were underrepresented, Black or African American youth identified as CSEC were overrepresented, Hispanic/Latino youth identified as CSEC were overrepresented, Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander youth identified as CSEC were underrepresented, White youth identified as CSEC were underrepresented, and youth who identified more than one race/ethnicity identified as CSEC were overrepresented.

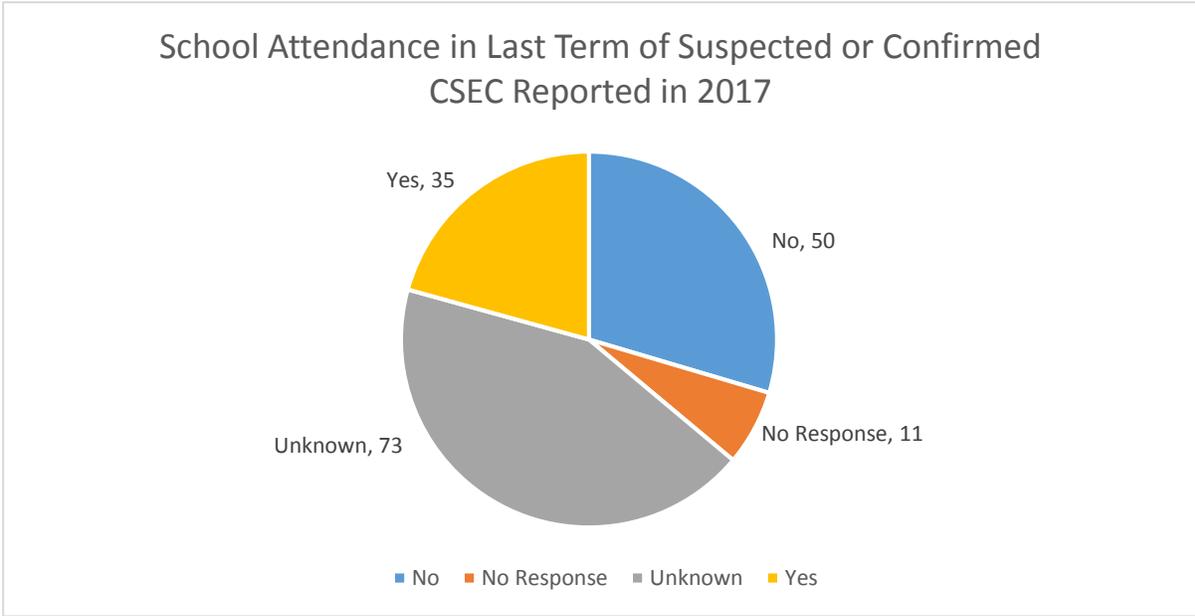


Figure 4: Regarding the school attendance of the 169 suspected or confirmed CSEC reported by case authors in 2017, 73 (43.2%) were unknown, 50 (29.6%) did not attend school in the last quarter, and only 35 (20.7%) did attend school in the last quarter.

Systems Involvement of Suspected or Confirmed CSEC Reported in 2017, Determined by Housing Status

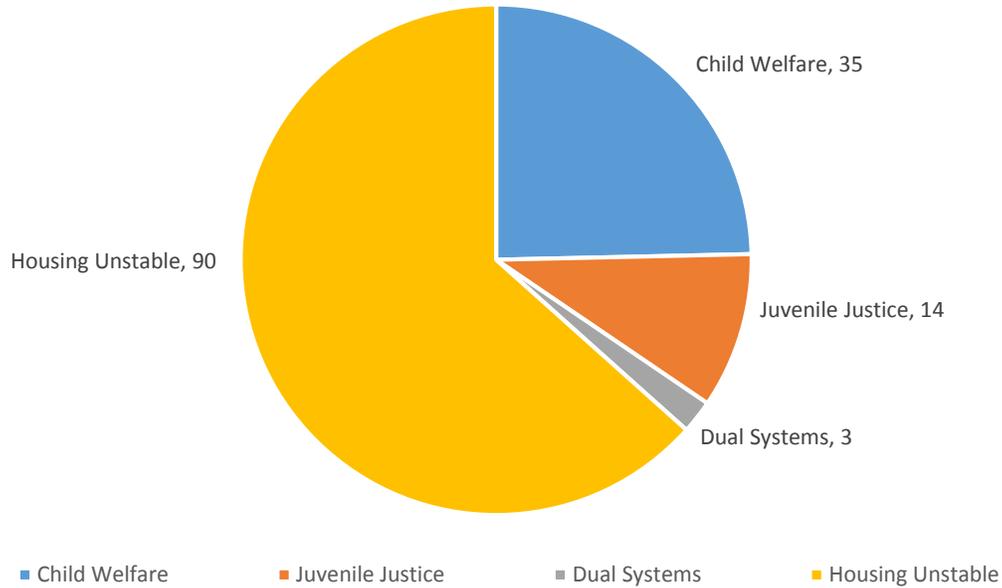


Figure 5: Of 169 suspected or confirmed CSEC reported by case authors in 2017, 90 (53.3%) reported some element of housing instability, 35 (20.7%) reported some level of current involvement with the child welfare system, 14 (8.3%) reported some level of current involvement in the juvenile justice system, and 3 (1.8%) reported some level of involvement with both the child welfare and juvenile justice systems. Systems involvement was determined by reported housing status. Child welfare involvement was signaled by mention of the following: Licensed Foster Home, DSHS/Foster Placement, or Residential/Transitional Living Program. Juvenile justice involvement was signaled by mention of the following: Correctional Institution. Dual systems involvement was signaled by the mention of both juvenile justice and child welfare housing elements. Housing unstable was signaled by mention of the following: On the Street/Homeless, Hotel/Motel, In a Shelter, or Couch Surfing.

CSEC Screening Checklist Results

The most common CSEC identifiers for this population is that the youth is known to have engaged in sexual conduct for an exchange other than a fee and that the youth is known to have engaged in sexual conduct for money, but no arrests or related charges.

Identified CSEC Risk Factors Among Suspected and Confirmed CSEC

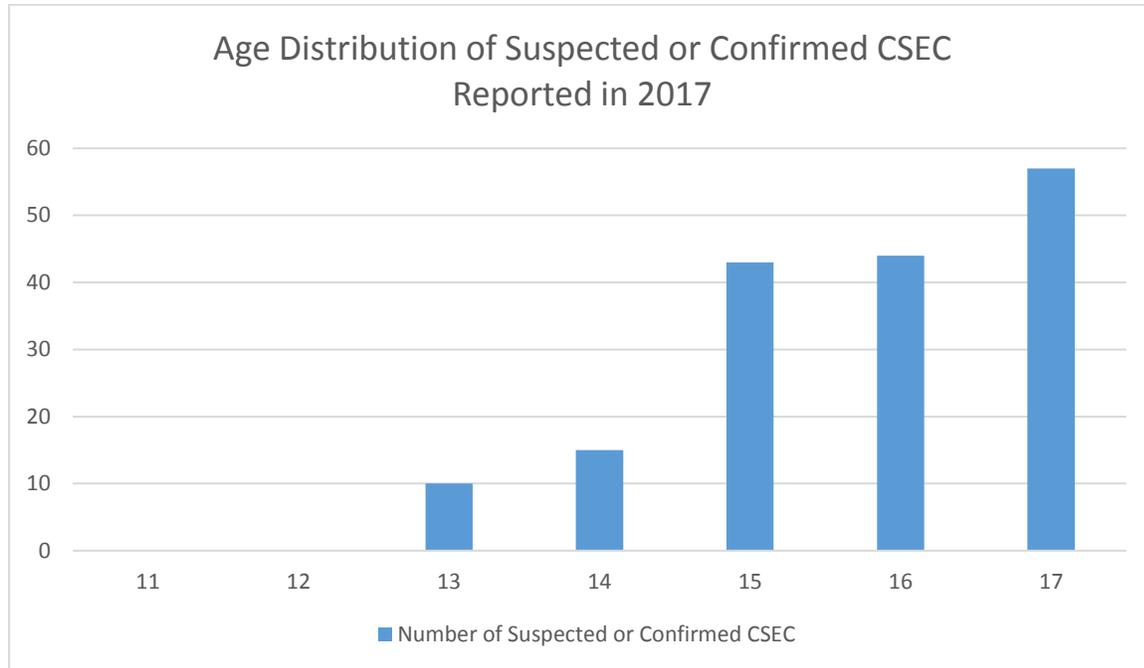
CSEC Identification / Risk Factors	No.	%
Youth is under age 18 and has a record of arrest for prostitution or related charges.	21	12.43
Youth is known to have engaged in sexual conduct for money, but no arrests or related charges.	52	30.77
Youth is known to have engaged in sexual conduct for an exchange other than a fee.	69	40.83
Youth is known to have received a fee or exchange for recruiting peers/others into CSE.	9	5.33
Youth is known to have been taken to clubs, hotels, casinos, or residences by adults and engaged in sexual conduct.	35	20.71
Youth is known to have been abducted/imprisoned or moved around for sexual activity.	18	10.65
Youth has been removed from an area of prostitution or other commercial sexual activity by authorities. Areas include strip clubs and massage parlors.	17	10.06
Youth is known to have engaged in exotic dancing at clubs, private parties, and/or possesses an exotic dancing permit.	7	4.14
Youth is known to have been subject to production, promotion, and/or distribution of pornography in some form.	21	12.43
Youth has been prostituted and/or sexually exploited as part of gang initiation, membership, or affiliation.	16	9.47
Youth has an explicit sexual online profile on internet community sites such as Backpage or Facebook that indicates CSE.	19	11.24
Youth is known to have a pimp, or acknowledged having a pimp ever.	30	17.75

*Note: Percentages do not add up to 100% because youth can be identified for multiple indicators.

Demographic Characteristics of Screened Youth

Age:

Youth ranged in age from 11 to 17. The average age of suspected or confirmed CSEC 15.73 years old.



Gender:

Participating agencies that screened youth were instructed to let youth self-identify their gender. Number of youth in each category may not accurately add up to the total because youth were instructed to select all that apply.

Gender	Author Determination of CSEC Status							
	Not Identified as CSEC		Suspected or Confirmed CSEC		Incomplete Checklist		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Female	143	28.9	126	74.6	138	28.7	407	35.6
Male	349	70.5	39	23.1	333	69.4	721	63
Transgender	1	0.2	2	1.2	8	1.7	11	1
Other: Agender, Agender/"Neutral", Unknown	2	0.4	4	2.4	0	0	6	0.5
Total	495	100	169	100	480	100	1,144	100

Sexual Orientation:

Participating agencies that screened youth were instructed to let youth self-identify their sexual orientation. Number of youth in each category may not accurately add up to the total because youth were instructed to select all that apply.

Breakdown of Sexual Orientation Statewide

Sexual Orientation	Author Determination of CSEC Status							
	Not Identified as CSEC		Suspected or Confirmed CSEC		Incomplete Checklist		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Bisexual	9	1.8	11	6.5	13	2.7	33	2.9
Gay	1	0.2	1	0.6	4	0.8	6	0.5
Heterosexual	396	80	52	30.8	352	73.3	800	70
Lesbian	1	0.2	1	0.6	4	0.8	6	0.5
Pansexual	1	0.2	1	0.6	3	0.6	5	0.5
Other: Trans-Gender, Queer	0	0	0	0	1	0.2	1	0.1
Unknown	88	17.8	103	61	102	21.2	293	25.7
No Response	0	0	3	1.8	4	0.8	7	0.6
Total	495	100	169	100	480	100	1,144	100

Race and Ethnicity:

Participating agencies that screened youth were instructed to let youth self-identify their race and/or ethnicity. Number of youth in each category may not accurately add up to the total because youth were instructed to select all that apply.

Breakdown of Race/Ethnicity Statewide

Race	Author Determination of CSEC Status							
	Not Identified as CSEC		Suspected or Confirmed CSEC		Incomplete Checklist		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
American Indian/Alaskan Native	32	6.4	11	6.6	29	6	72	6.3
Asian	4	0.8	1	0.6	6	1.3	11	1
Black or African American	44	8.9	23	13.7	55	11.4	122	10.7
Hispanic/Latino	197	39.8	28	16.6	112	23.4	337	29.6
Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander	9	1.8	2	1.2	2	0.4	13	1.2
White	251	50.7	69	40.9	297	61.9	617	54
Other: Mexican American, Puerto Rican, Somali	0	0	2	1.2	4	0.8	6	0.6
Unknown	7	1.4	50	29.6	5	1	62	5.5

No Response	0	0	1	0.6	0	0	1	0.1
Total	495	100	169	100	480	100	1,144	100

Country of Origin:

Country	Not Identified as CSEC		Suspected or Confirmed CSEC		Incomplete Checklist		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Bulgaria	1	0.2	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	0.1
Canada	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	0.2	1	0.1
Honduras	0	0.0	1	0.6	0	0.0	1	0.1
Japan	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	0.2	1	0.1
Kazakhstan	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	0.2	1	0.1
Mexico	1	0.2	0	0	2	0.4	3	0.3
N/A	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	0.2	1	0.1
No Response	402	81.2	143	84.6	423	88.1	968	84.6
Peru	0	0.0	1	0.6	0	0.0	1	0.1
Pohnpei	1	0.2	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	0.1
Russia	0	0.0	1	0.6	0	0.0	1	0.1
South Africa	1	0.2	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	0.1
United States	89	17.8	23	13.6	51	10.6	163	14.2
Total	495	100.0	169	100.0	480	100.0	1,144	100.0

School Attendance:

School attendance in most recent term	Author Determination of CSEC Status							
	Not Identified as CSEC		Suspected or Confirmed CSEC		Incomplete Checklist		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
No	38	7.7	50	29.6	59	12.3	147	12.8
No Response	9	1.8	11	6.5	1	0.2	21	1.8
Unknown	301	60.8	73	43.2	186	38.8	560	49.0
Yes	147	29.7	35	20.7	234	48.8	416	36.4
Total	495	100.0	169	100.0	480	100.0	1,144	100.0

Living Situation:

Participating agencies that screened youth were instructed to let youth self-identify their living situation. Number of youth in each category may not accurately add up to the total because youth were instructed to select all that apply.

Breakdown of Living Situation Statewide

Living situation at time of checklist	Author Determination of CSEC Status							
	Not Identified as CSEC		Suspected or Confirmed CSEC		Incomplete Checklist		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Correctional institution	1	0.2	14	8.4	25	5.1	40	3.6
In a shelter	25	5.1	33	19.5	28	5.8	86	7.6
Licensed foster home	18	3.6	14	8.3	12	2.5	44	3.9
On the street/Homeless	6	1.2	52	30.9	14	2.9	72	6.5
Private Residence	12	2.4	6	3.6	41	8.5	59	5.2
Psychiatric hospital	2	0.4	0	0	1	0.2	3	0.3
Residential/Transitional program	13	2.6	16	9.5	105	21.8	134	11.8
With other relative	60	12.1	10	6	34	7	104	9.2
With parent/parents	359	72.5	29	17.2	258	53.6	646	56.5
No Response	4	0.8	15	8.9	1	0.2	20	1.7
Total	495	100	169	100	480	100	1,144	100

Case Author Commentary

Suspected or Positive CSEC ID

Some variation of:

- “Youth is on the streets for long periods of time and history of assaults indicates possible CSE.”
- “Youth has disclosed CSEC”
- “many reports of youth being exploited while on the streets. Highly indicated but not confirmed. Possible family case. LE involved.”
- “CSEC is indicated but [not] confirmed. Youth is gang affiliated and CSEC is suspected of being tied to that. Youth has history of runs and has been found with adult males. Residential staff have found CSEC indicators among youth's belongings.”
- “Multiple unconfirmed reports of CSEC for youth, sexual explicit social networking, items of value without means to pay”
- “Youth close with other CSE youth, reported being in car with significantly older male”
- “Youth is chronic runner and has returned with large amounts of cash, sexually explicit social media posts.”
- “Frequent runs, youth has been known to be hotel rooms with older unrelated men, possibly orchestrating arrangements for other youth.”
- “Youth on run with known CSE youth, disclosed receiving money from 'husband' while homeless and not needing to pay for drugs”
- “Youth has been forced or coerced into sexual activity for the benefit of another person.”
- “Victim of human trafficking, youth 'bought' and brought to the USA”
- “This is a suspected but not a confirmed CSEC case based on the following risk factors: reports of exploitation while being homeless”
- “This is a suspected but not a confirmed CSEC case as the youth left the state with an older boyfriend and has been on the run for long periods of time.”
- “Ran away from our shelter to participate in CSEC activities. Has 2 phones one related to a "shadow life" per CA worker. Has a baby due to CSEC activities.”
- “In addition to the positive answers above, Client had a run plan with another client that had stripping as her plan to make money while on the run.”
- “JPC filled out a screening tool.
 1. youth exchanged sex for money.
 2. youth exchanged sex for other items.
 3. youth has a pimp/trafficker
 4. JPC has additional knowledge.”
- “Referral from screening unit. Youth known to associate with other CSE individuals and returned from out of state and contact with child welfare system.”
- “Picked up on a FBI operation. Known affiliation with gang and had the same pimp as other girls picked up in the same raid. Positive disclosure.

- “Peers at Juvenile reported that she was being exploited. Mother was aware of her being involved with prostitution. Known to have been staying a hotel with an older man affiliated with prostitution. Picked up during a trafficking sting in CA.”
- “Chronic runaway, with known association with an area pimp- presented at hospital for a SA exam, but was not interested in additional services, but disclosed that the person who had assaulted her had done it before to her and had done it other women. It is believed that offender was her pimp”
- “Homeless minor youth of color”
- “Homeless minor youth. On WA state missing children's list.”
- “Youth consistently showed up with items that they could not have paid for (speakers, bike, etc) and very unlikely stories explaining where they got them. Youth disclosed (after some time) adult friends in another county, particularly an adult female friend with money who took care of them and bought them things. Youth showed up more than one time with injuries, claiming repeated "bike accidents" over the course of a few weeks. Youth consistently had money for bus fare to another county, but not much else. While no disclosure was ever given, and youth left for another facility fairly quickly, staff felt quite confident what was going on.”
- “Known history”

NonCSEC

- Some variation of
 - “According to answers given”
 - “Youth did not display behaviors that would imply potential CSEC behaviors. “
 - “No CSEC related activities.”
 - “Information youth provided does not indicate CSEC ID”
 - “Youth is sexually active but has not exchanged sex for food, shelter, drugs or money.”
 - “Youth does not have any stated or suspected history of CSEC. Youth does not meet the standards for at-risk of becoming CSEC.”
 - “Youth is highly vulnerable and at risk for becoming CSEC.”
 - “Client shared sexual texts with a peer but no further sexual activity or sexual activity for money”
 - “Youth has no stated or confirmed history of CSEC. Youth is deemed at-risk for becoming CSEC due to meeting factors of the CSEC At-Risk Assessment.”
 - “This is a trans youth who is at risk of homelessness”
 - “Youth did not endorse any concerning behaviors. There are no reports from parents, law enforcement, teachers, or others of concerns.”
 - “Youth is not known to have engaged in any of the above behaviors; attends school regularly, works full time, no history of running away. No concerns reported by youth or youth's mother.”
 - “While youth does obtain alcohol and substances without having an income, there is nothing that substantiates concern regarding prostitution or other sexual exploitation.”
 - “I enter all youth on my caseload into CSEC database.”

Contact Us

If you have any questions or concerns about the data report or would like to discuss participation in Project Respect's data collection efforts, or are interested in scheduling a CSEC 101 training, please contact:

Nicholas Oakley
Project Respect Coordinator
projectrespect@ccyj.org

Kimberly Ong
Project Respect Data Analyst, Training Coordinator
kong@ccyj.org