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Youth Screenings Insights

Texas and Louisiana

Allies Against Slavery

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Contents

Acronyms

CAC
Child Advocacy Center

CPS
Child Protective Services

CSE-IT
Commercial Sexual Exploitation-Identification Tool

CSEY
Commercially Sexually Exploited Youth Agency

DFPS
Texas Department of Family and Protective Services

FINS
Families In Need of Services

H-TIAM-14
The Human Trafficking Interview and Assessment Measure

ISD
Independent School District

JJ
Juvenile Justice

LE
Law Enforcement

JPD
Juvenile Probation Department

NRDSA
Non-Residential Direct Service Agency

QYIT
Quick Youth Indicators for Trafficking

RDSA
Residential Direct Service Agency

TJJD
Texas Juvenile Justice Department

TVIT
Trafficking Victim Identification Tool

WCC
WestCoast Children's Clinic

Executive Summary

Human trafficking remains a pervasive and under-identified issue globally, with significant gaps between estimated and confirmed cases of victimization. The hidden nature of this crime, compounded by challenges in victim identification, makes addressing trafficking a complex and urgent priority.

This report examines the deployment of the Commercial Sexual Exploitation-Identification Tool (CSE-IT) to screen for trafficking risks among youth in Texas and Louisiana. The tool is academically validated and designed to identify subtle indicators of trafficking, enabling care providers to address exploitation early and consistently. Allies Against Slavery, in partnership with local agencies, has leveraged the Lighthouse software platform to facilitate this process, collecting and analyzing screening data from a diverse array of agencies, including juvenile probation departments, schools, and various child welfare organizations.

The report provides a comprehensive analysis of screening trends, demographic patterns, and risk indicators derived from data collected between 2016 and 2024. It highlights the successes and challenges of trafficking identification efforts in Texas and Louisiana, emphasizing the importance of standardized practices, tailored interventions, and inclusive approaches to addressing vulnerable populations. Findings underscore the value of data-driven decision-making to inform policy, improve victim support services, and ensure that at-risk youth receive timely and effective care.

The purpose of this report is to showcase the trends in screenings, what we can learn from them, and how these findings might help to shape future practices involving the identification of youth victims of human trafficking. Key findings and recommendations are summarized below.

Key Findings

SCREENING TRENDS

In Texas, over 174,000 screenings were conducted, with 9.9% categorized as Clear Concern, which is the highest risk level for sex trafficking victimization on the CSE-IT.

Louisiana, with more recent adoption, has completed 6,829 screenings, of which 18.3% scored Clear Concern.

Juvenile Probation Departments (JPDs) in Texas conducted the highest volume of screenings, while Commercially Sexually Exploited Youth (CSEY) agencies identified the most high-risk cases proportionally.

Children's Advocacy Centers (CACs) in Louisiana conducted the highest volume of screenings and identified the most high-risk cases.

DEMOGRAPHICS

Median age for Clear Concern across both states is 15–16 years.

Female youth represent 77.6% of Clear Concern cases, though male youth remain underserved, particularly outside of JPD contexts.

In Texas, African American and White youth are overrepresented among Clear Concerns relative to screening volumes. In Louisiana, Hispanic/Latino youth are overrepresented among Clear Concern relative to screening volume.

VULNERABLE POPULATIONS

LGBTQ+ youth and individuals with disabilities represent significantly higher rates of Clear Concern relative to their population than non-LGBTQ+ and those without disabilities.

These vulnerable populations are most likely under-identified due to inconsistent data collection.

COMMON RISK INDICATORS

95.9% (n=17,747) of Clear Concern screenings in Texas and Louisiana have at least one the following five common risk indicators:

- Youth runs away or frequently leaves their residence for extended periods (overnight, days, weeks).
- Youth has current or past involvement with the child welfare system.
- Youth has experienced sexual abuse.
- Youth has current or past involvement with law enforcement or the juvenile justice system.
- Youth engages in self-destructive, aggressive, or risk-taking behaviors.

The most consistent predictors are Child Protective Services (CPS) involvement and risk-taking behaviors, with both appearing in 34.5% of Clear Concern screenings and at least one in 76.9%.

SCREENING GAPS

Inconsistent screening protocols across agencies in Texas and limited access to critical screening training in Louisiana impede comprehensive identification efforts in both states.

Schools in Texas play a small but critical role, with lower average ages for Clear Concern cases highlighting their potential for early intervention.

Many organizations fail to document disability status during screenings. This may be due to limited

knowledge of the youth's medical or mental health history. To address this gap, mental health and medical providers should incorporate trafficking screenings into their services.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. **Mandate universal screening** for at-risk populations, especially within child welfare, schools, and juvenile justice.
2. **Standardize screening protocols**, including screening tools and the data collected across the tools.
3. **Implement widespread and standardized training**, particularly in Louisiana, to ensure broader implementation, and emphasize the importance of filling out demographic information and all indicators of the CSE-IT.
4. **Prioritize interventions for high-risk demographics**, especially females, LGBTQ+ youth, and those with disabilities.
5. **Increase identification of underrepresented populations** including male identifying youth, and ensure that outreach material and interventions are inclusive.
6. **Tailor screening and intervention for targeted age groups** due to different age groups having very different risk indicator profiles.
7. **Leverage risk indicator insights** by using the most prevalent risk indicators to refine prevention and intervention strategies across all agency types.
8. **Expand data-driven collaboration** and greater inter-agency coordination to share best practices and address disparities in screening and services across agencies and across states.

The importance of screenings cannot be overstated in the fight against human trafficking. Effective and consistent screening practices serve as essential tools in identifying victims and addressing the root causes of trafficking. Simply put, we cannot solve a problem we cannot see. By implementing targeted and routine screening practices, we gain the ability to uncover what is hidden and intervene.

Background

The problem of human trafficking

Globally, human trafficking continues to be widely under-identified and underreported. For example, data from the Counter Trafficking Data Collaborative, the largest global database of confirmed victims of human trafficking, contains information on 87,003 identified victims from 2010 to 2020.[1] Meanwhile, the International Labor Organization estimates that there are 27.6 million people in some form of forced labor (including commercial sexual exploitation) globally.[2] There is a very large gap between identified victims and estimates of the total number of victims.

There are several reasons for these gaps. The crime's hidden nature, the complexity of victim experiences, limited public awareness, and persistent misconceptions make identification challenging for those in a position to intervene. Yet under-identification of trafficking victims remains a significant barrier to serving victims and bringing perpetrators to justice.

Screening as a tool for prevention

One method to increase identification of potential trafficking victims is through screening instruments that may be employed by various agencies who regularly encounter potentially vulnerable populations and are therefore on the front lines serving as first responders. This includes healthcare personnel, educators, social workers, law enforcement officers, and those serving systems-involved youth in a state. There are many benefits to using screening tools to identify trafficking victims. First, screening tools provide a standardized measure with uniform criteria that helps to minimize inconsistencies in evaluations within and across different agencies and personnel. Further, well-designed tools can expose subtle indicators that might otherwise be overlooked in routine interactions with care providers, which makes victims who would otherwise remain undetected more identifiable. Finally, the use of screening tools facilitates consistent and reliable data collection and analysis, enhancing the ability to monitor trends and improve interventions over time and within certain contexts.

1 Al-Tammemi, Ala'A. B., Asma Nadeem, Laila Kutkut, Manal Ali, Khadijah Angawi, Maram H. Abdallah, Rana Abutaima, Rasha Shoumar, Rana Albakri, and Malik Sallam. "Are we seeing the unseen of human trafficking? A retrospective analysis of the CTDC k-anonymized global victim of trafficking data pool in the period 2010–2020." PLoS one 18, no. 4 (2023): e0284762.

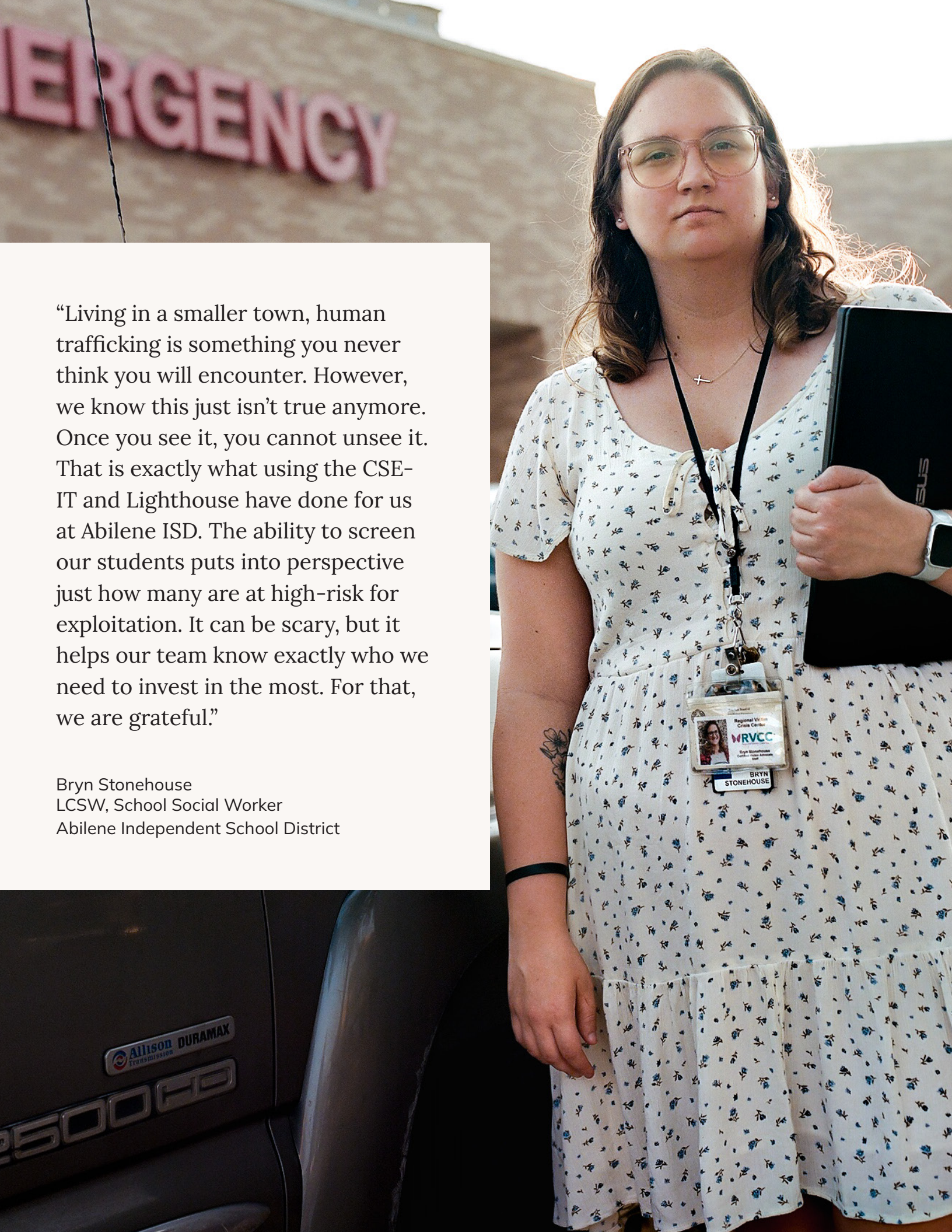
2 International Labor Organization, Walk Free, International Organization on Migration. "Global estimates of modern slavery: Forced labour and forced marriage." (2022).

Over the past decade, a variety of different human trafficking screening tools have been developed tailored to different contexts and settings. These tools differ in length and depth, ranging from brief checklists to more comprehensive formats that integrate detailed information. They also vary in specificity: some are designed to screen for all forms of trafficking, while others focus on a specific type, such as sex trafficking or labor trafficking, or target a particular population. Screening tools may take the form of self-administered questionnaires for potential victims, or they may involve interviews and information gathering conducted by practitioners. Additionally, some states and industries have developed their own tools to address their unique needs.[3]

Screening tools must go through a validation process which includes multiple studies on the target population that tests the validity (that the tool is measuring what it purports to be measuring) and reliability (that the tool surfaces the same results regardless of the sample) of the tool. While there are many screening tools utilized across the anti-trafficking movement to identify potential victims, Table 1 summarizes the most commonly utilized validated screening tools.

In this report, we provide an analysis of youth screened using the CSE-IT tool developed by West-Coast Children's Clinic and utilized in two states, Texas and Louisiana. We identify important patterns and trends and demonstrate the power of screening to identify those at risk, which is the first step towards developing a coordinated plan for care, supporting victims' recovery, and bringing the perpetrators to justice.

3 See, for example, the following articles for a review of different screening tools for healthcare providers: Bespalova, Nadejda, Juliet Morgan, and John Coverdale. "A pathway to freedom: an evaluation of screening tools for the identification of trafficking victims." Academic psychiatry 40 (2016): 124-128. Hainaut, Mathilde, Katherine J. Thompson, Caryn J. Ha, Hayley L. Herzog, Timothy Roberts, and Veronica Ades. "Are screening tools for identifying human trafficking victims in health care settings validated? A scoping review." Public Health Reports 137, no. 1_suppl (2022): 63S-72S.



"Living in a smaller town, human trafficking is something you never think you will encounter. However, we know this just isn't true anymore. Once you see it, you cannot unsee it. That is exactly what using the CSE-IT and Lighthouse have done for us at Abilene ISD. The ability to screen our students puts into perspective just how many are at high-risk for exploitation. It can be scary, but it helps our team know exactly who we need to invest in the most. For that, we are grateful."

Bryn Stonehouse
LCSW, School Social Worker
Abilene Independent School District

TABLE 1: VALIDATED AND COMMONLY UTILIZED SCREENING TOOLS

TOOL	DEVELOPED BY	YEAR VALIDATED	LABOR / SEX	ADULTS / MINORS	INDUSTRY SPECIFIC	LENGTH	SCORING
Trafficking Victim Identification Tool (TVIT)	The VERA Institute	2014	Both	Both	N/A	Contains both a long (60min) and short (30min) version	The TVIT does not provide a numerical score, but relies on the individual conducting the instrument to evaluate the individual's risk based on information gathered.
The Human Trafficking Interview and Assessment Measure 14 (H-TIAM-14)	Covenant House	2013	Both	Youth ages 18-23	N/A	14 interview questions	Youth are given a score, allowing the interviewer to evaluate their risk for trafficking.
The Quick Youth Indicators for Trafficking (QYIT)	Covenant House New Jersey	2019	Both	Youth ages 18-22	Homeless Youth	4 "yes or no" interview questions	If youth respond "yes" to any one indicator, they are presumed "positive" for trafficking risk.
The Commercial Sexual Exploitation Identification Tool (CSE-IT)	West Coast Children's Clinic	2017	Sex Trafficking	Children and youth ages 10-24	N/A	8 sections of indicators	Each indicator is rated based on its presence and severity, and an overall score is calculated. The youth is given a cumulative score, used to determine the level of concern for trafficking.

Methodology

Allies Against Slavery partners with the Office of the Governor Child Sex Trafficking Team in Texas and the Office of Human Trafficking Prevention in Louisiana to support the states' human trafficking screening efforts. Both states use the CSE-IT tool to screen for sex trafficking among vulnerable youth. The CSE-IT screening tool is programmed into Allies' Lighthouse software platform, allowing users to easily log in, conduct their screening, and analyze aggregate data trends in real time.[4] Lighthouse automates data visualization and the production of reports for the state partners. However, the screening process and the agencies involved vary in both states.

The CSE-IT Screener

The CSE-IT is comprised of eight sections: housing and caregiving, prior abuse and trauma, physical health and appearance, environment and exposure, relationships and personal belongings, signs of current trauma, coercion, and exploitation.[5] Each section has several questions. For each question in each section, the screener assesses whether there is: not enough information (0), no concern (0), possible concern (1), or clear concern (2). Scores are summed for each category, and the overall score for that category determines whether there is no concern, possible concern, or clear concern for that individual category. Finally, all scores across all categories are summed to determine the overall concern level.

Scores ranging from 0 to 3 are deemed "no concern." Scores ranging from 4 to 8 are considered "possible concern." Scores ranging from 9 to 23 are "clear concern." The only exception is for the category of exploitation. Possible concern for exploitation automatically deems an individual as "possible concern," and clear concern for exploitation automatically makes the individual "clear concern" even if all of the other indicators are "no concern."

4 Texas and Louisiana have opted to use CSE-IT, but Lighthouse itself is agnostic as to the screening tool used and additional screening tools can be implemented in Lighthouse.

5 See Appendix B for a copy of the CSE-IT screener.

Screening in Texas

Since 2016, Lighthouse has facilitated the collection of CSE-IT screenings from 261 different organizations and about 2,000 professionals across Texas. This includes those who screen directly in Lighthouse, as well as those who submit their screening data to Allies outside of Lighthouse which is then integrated into the platform. Any organization serving vulnerable youth can screen with the CSE-IT in Lighthouse, provided that the staff members responsible for conducting screenings have completed CSE-IT training. Several training agencies in Texas offer free CSE-IT training on a regular basis, equipping professionals with the necessary skills to conduct screenings.

While best practice guidelines recommended by the Office of the Texas Governor's Child Sex Trafficking Team suggest universal screening with the CSE-IT for all vulnerable youth aged 10-24, organizations across Texas can establish their own screening protocols, which may vary depending on the agency's leadership. There are six different types of agencies screening with the CSE-IT across Texas, as outlined in Table 2. These include:

- County juvenile probation departments (JPDs): government funded agencies responsible for overseeing the rehabilitation of youth who have been placed on probation by the juvenile court system.
- Child advocacy centers (CACs): facilities designed to provide multidisciplinary response and care to children and families during the investigation of child abuse cases.
- CSEY agencies: organizations specifically serving youth who have experienced commercial sexual exploitation.
- Independent school districts (ISDs): counselors, social workers or other staff who work with vulnerable populations within a school setting.
- Non-residential direct service agencies (NRDSAs): organizations working with vulnerable populations in a non-residential capacity, including emergency shelters, drop-in centers, licensed mental health facilities, and rape crisis centers.
- Residential direct service agencies (RDSAs): entities providing the management and care of vulnerable youth in fully residential capacity.

TABLE 2: TYPES, NUMBERS, AND SCREENING PRACTICES OF PARTNER AGENCIES CONTRIBUTING SCREENINGS TO LIGHTHOUSE

TYPE OF AGENCY	ABBREVIATION	SCREENING PRACTICES	NUMBER OF AGENCIES HAVING SCREENED IN TEXAS	NUMBER OF AGENCIES HAVING SCREENED IN LOUISIANA
Child Advocacy Centers Facilities designed to provided multidisciplinary response and care to children and families during the investigation of child abuse cases	CAC	CACs in Texas screen youth referred to their facility following a forensic interview and intake. The majority of CACs in Texas screen youth over age 10, though several screen all youth regardless of age. CACs in Louisiana screen youth referred to them by external agencies who are already believed to be victims of trafficking. Thus, rates of clear concern are likely to be higher for CAC screenings in Louisiana than Texas.	25	11
Commercially Sexually Exploited Youth Agencies Organizations that serve only youth who have experienced some form of commercial sexual exploitation	CSEY	CSEY agencies screen youth referred to their services at intake to determine if the individual meets criteria for services. As these youth are believed to be victims of trafficking at the time of referral, rates of clear concern are likely to be higher than other organizations.	15	2
Independent School Districts Counselors, social workers or other staff who work with vulnerable populations within a school setting	ISD	ISDs in Texas screen youth identified as vulnerable to or "at risk" for trafficking. ISDs approach screening differently, with some screening all youth over age 10 referred to social work services for any reason, and some screening only youth with highly irregular school attendance or behavioral concerns.	3	0
Juvenile Probation Departments Government funded agencies responsible for overseeing the rehabilitation of youth who have been placed on probation by the juvenile court system	JPD	JPDs in Texas are able to determine their screening protocol independently. Many JPDs screen all youth over age 10 at intake. Some JPDs screen only youth with indicators or "red flags" for trafficking. The JPD screening in Louisiana screens all youth over age 10 at intake.	141	0
Non-residential Direct Service Agencies Emergency shelters, drop-in centers, licensed mental health agencies (LMHAs), and rape crisis centers.	NRDSA	NRDSAs in both states screen in a variety of ways. Many emergency shelters, drop in centers and LMHAs screen youth at intake to meet grant requirements. Some of these agencies screen only clients having experienced sexual assault or requiring a SANE exam. Some of these organizations only screen youth presenting with "red flags" or indicators that suggest they might be a victim of trafficking.	60	2

TYPE OF AGENCY	ABBREVIATION	SCREENING PRACTICES	NUMBER OF AGENCIES HAVING SCREENED IN TEXAS	NUMBER OF AGENCIES HAVING SCREENED IN LOUISIANA
Residential Direct Service Agency Entities providing the management and care of vulnerable youth in fully residential capacity	RDSA	RDSAs also screen differently from each other. Some RDSAs screen all youth over age 10 at intake. Some RDSAs screen youth with a history of running away. Some RDSAs screen only youth with "red flags" or indicators that suggest they might be a victim of trafficking. Some RDSAs screen only youth they believe are victims of trafficking for a specific program they offer.	17	0

Screening in Louisiana

Louisiana began screening with the CSE-IT in 2020. While 32 organizations have signed a license to screen with Lighthouse, only 19 have entered a screening while 15 organizations regularly screen in Lighthouse. Overall, 148 professionals in Louisiana have used Lighthouse to screen. The state's approach to serving trafficking survivors involves care coordinators based at child advocacy centers (CACs) who oversee service provision for these individuals. Care coordinators work closely with child welfare professionals, law enforcement, and direct service agencies within the youth's local area to ensure comprehensive support. Louisiana has 10 care coordinators covering the entire state, each responsible for covering multiple parishes within their assigned regions.

As of 2024, CSE-IT training in Louisiana is limited to care coordinators and their close collaborators, as well as a small number of other organizations, due to limitations in access to CSE-IT training. Consequently, care coordinators are the primary individuals conducting CSE-IT screenings. Direct service agencies, child welfare, and law enforcement refer youth who may be experiencing trafficking to care coordinators for screening. For this reason, CSE-IT screenings in Louisiana are limited to CACs and one JPD.[6] Two CSEY agencies and NRDSAs have started screening in Louisiana, but screening numbers are still too few to be analyzed in this report.

Screening Data Life Cycle

DATA COLLECTION

The CSE-IT screening data is gathered from four primary sources: WestCoast Children's Clinic (WCC), Lighthouse Screening, Texas Juvenile Justice Department (TJJD), and Department of Family and Protective Services (DFPS). In the CSE-IT screening data, each row represents an individual screening, rather than a unique client. It is common for a single client to undergo multiple screenings over time. Of the 40,183 screenings collected in Lighthouse, 36,482 are attached to unique individuals, indicating that approximately 9.2% of screenings are repeat screenings. We do not have conclusive data on unique individuals or repeat screenings for the

6 Louisiana also developed a labor screening tool for youth, which is programmed in Lighthouse; however, the labor screening data is not included in this report because it is still in the early stages of deployment.

other data sources. For each screening, regardless of the data source, data is consistently recorded on the agency conducting the screening, the screening date, and the scores for each screening indicator. However, the demographic variables recorded for each screening may vary depending on the data source and/or agency screening. These variations in demographic data collected by different data sources are outlined in Table 3.

Data from WCC consists of historical screenings conducted in Texas and Louisiana before Lighthouse's efforts to expand screening coverage, digitize the screening process in these states, and establish a more standardized approach to data collection and reporting. Screening data from WCC in Texas spans from 2016 to 2020, comprising 5,186 screenings. This dataset includes historic screenings from JPDs, CACs, CSEYs, NRDSAs, and RDSAs. Louisiana's WCC screening data, spanning from 2020 to 2022, consists of 2,042 screenings collected from all Louisiana organizations outlined in the report. In addition to data on the tool's indicators, WCC provides demographic variables, including age, gender, and race. Data on ethnicity is not coded distinctly from the race variable. Entry of these demographic variables is mandatory. However, the WCC historical data does not include information on gender identity, sexual orientation, or disability.

TJJD and DFPS currently conduct CSE-IT screenings through their own internal systems. TJJD provides monthly screenings to Lighthouse, covering all Texas Juvenile Probation Departments (JPDs). The data included in this report is current up to October 3, 2024. Lighthouse collects DFPS data annually via the Open Records Requests portal, with data in this report current as of August 31, 2024. For both sources, demographic information on age, gender, and race must be entered by screeners. Ethnicity is coded as race and both sources do not report data on gender identity, sexual orientation, or disability.

For all other organizations screening with the CSE-IT in Texas and Louisiana—including Louisiana JPDs, Louisiana and Texas CACs, CSEYs, NRDSAs, ISDs, and RDSAs—data is collected directly through Lighthouse Screening. The platform ensures consistent and comprehensive data collection across a wide range of organizations. The screenings in Lighthouse Screening are cleaned, anonymized (stripped from PII), and imported into Lighthouse Data at a biweekly cadence. Screeners can choose to input demographic information, as the input of these variables (age, gender, gender identity, race, sexual orientation, disability, and ethnicity) are optional. Additional demographic variables, such as education level, type of education, and immigration status, are also available for input but are not included in this report due to low reporting rates. Making demographic data entry optional in Lighthouse aims to encourage more screenings.

TABLE 3: VARIATIONS IN DEMOGRAPHIC DATA COLLECTED IN SCREENINGS BY DATA SOURCE

DATA SOURCE	AGE	GENDER	RACE	ETHNICITY	GENDER IDENTITY	SEXUAL ORIENTATION	DISABILITY
Lighthouse Screening	Optional	Optional	Optional	Optional	Optional	Optional	Optional
TJJD	Required	Required	Required	Ethnicity entered as race	N/A	N/A	N/A

DATA SOURCE	AGE	GENDER	RACE	ETHNICITY	GENDER IDENTITY	SEXUAL ORIENTATION	DISABILITY
DFPS	Required	Required	Required	Ethnicity entered as race	N/A	N/A	N/A
WCC	Required	Required	Required	Ethnicity entered as race	N/A	N/A	N/A

DATA PRIVACY

Data from WCC, TJJD, and DFPS is securely shared with Lighthouse via a cloud-based platform. This data is provided to Lighthouse with most personally identifiable information (PII) removed.

Thus, Lighthouse does not receive sensitive PII from TJJD, WCC, and DFPS. The only PII stored in the database is related to demographic data used for visualizations, and even this information is hidden by transforming dates of birth into age. To further protect client confidentiality, no visualizations in Lighthouse Data are displayed unless a minimum of six screenings are aggregated. Additionally, Lighthouse Data is a private platform accessible only to licensed users, and all individuals involved in managing and analyzing data have undergone HIPAA training.

DATA CLEANING & INGESTION PIPELINE

The data cleaning process involves standardizing variable formats to align with the CSE-IT screening table structure in the Lighthouse database and the values used in analyzing the data. For instance, TJJD indicator variables are provided as “Clear Concern,” “Possible Concern,” “No Concern,” and “No Information,” which are converted to “2,” “1,” “0,” and “0” respectively to streamline analysis. Similarly, client birthdates attached to the screening are converted into age, with the original date of birth column removed to support ease of analysis and to uphold data privacy standards. The data ingestion pipeline is effectively a six step process as outlined in the steps below.

1. Data is received and downloaded to a secure device.
2. Using PostgreSQL as the database management system, a temporary table is created in the development database specifically for data cleaning and standardization. The raw data is then uploaded into this table.
3. SQL queries are executed in PostgreSQL to clean and standardize the data in the temporary table, aligning formats and values with the required structure for the production database.
4. Standardized data is downloaded to a device, where a product analyst reviews it to do further cleaning using a spreadsheet software.
5. After review, the cleaned data is uploaded to the permanent tables in the AWS-hosted PostgreSQL database, supporting both Development and Production environments. The temporary cleaning table is then deleted to maintain a clean and secure development environment.
6. Data imports are validated in both Development and Production environments, ensuring that visualizations in Lighthouse Data accurately reflect the latest import.

DATA STORAGE

Lighthouse utilizes a secure cloud-based platform hosted on AWS for data storage, with all backup data maintained in the cloud. Both Development and Production environments are secured to ensure consistent data protection across all stages of handling and analysis.

DATA ANALYSIS

Our analysis of the CSE-IT screening data primarily provides descriptive insights, highlighting trends and observations rather than establishing correlation or multivariate modeling. This descriptive analysis utilizes visualizations generated through the Lighthouse Data platform, allowing us to identify patterns. New data visualizations are developed once a sufficient number of screenings for specific variables or combinations of variables are available, ensuring that results are based on a representative sample.

Domain expertise in the anti-trafficking field and collaboration with partners are essential components of this analysis. The dataset encompasses screenings conducted by different types of organizations, each with unique screening protocols and populations served. These inherent differences can influence the trends observed. For this reason, those who analyze the data work closely with screening partners. This includes the partnerships manager and product analysts.

LIMITATIONS & MITIGATION STRATEGIES

The analysis faces limitations due to data collection discrepancies and variability in reporting practices. Data completeness can vary, especially for certain demographic variables. While demographic data entry on Lighthouse is optional, data on age, gender, and race/ethnicity is provided for 95.14% (n=38,232), 82.88% (n=33,305), and 87.05% (n=34,981) of screenings, respectively, ensuring a representative sample for these key variables.

However, reporting rates for gender identity, sexual orientation, and disability are lower, with these variables recorded in 64.26% (n=25,822), 59.34% (n=23,845), and 28.56% (n=11,478) of screenings collected in Lighthouse, respectively. To manage this limitation, our analysis does not include missing data in these categories. We exclude missing demographic data from our reporting rather than categorizing it as “Unknown” since screeners have the explicit option to select “Unknown” when applicable. This approach prevents potential biases that could arise from inferring or assigning values to missing data.

Human data entry errors are another potential issue, estimated to impact less than 5% of the screenings collected in Lighthouse. We mitigate this through data validation practices and yearly check-ins with our screening partners. During these check-ins, we review key data metrics, such as concern level distribution for the organization, duplicate records, program, and location information, to ensure accurate data entry and correct platform usage. This process helps to minimize human error bias and maintain data reliability.

In the following analysis, to mitigate potential bias and confounding factors, our findings are segmented by concern level and/or agency type. This approach accounts for differences in screening protocols and populations served, ensuring a balanced representation of trends. Additionally, working closely with partners and leveraging domain expertise enables us to identify and adjust for potential biases, enhancing the reliability and validity of our results.

Findings

Below we analyze trends in CSE-IT screening data from Texas and Louisiana. In what follows, we first review general concern level trends separately in Texas and Louisiana. Next, we explore variability in demographic trends by age, race / ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, and disability for different types of screening agencies. Finally, we examine variability in risk indicators for different types of screening agencies.

General Concern Level Trends by Agency Type

TEXAS

As of October 2024, 174,243 screenings have been completed in Texas and collected in Lighthouse, of which 9.9% (n=17,269) scored a Clear Concern as shown in Figure 1. However, it is critical to contextualize these findings based on the type of agency conducting the screenings.

Figure 2 provides the agency distribution of all screenings conducted in Texas and reveals that 75.2% (n=130,739) of all screenings are complet-

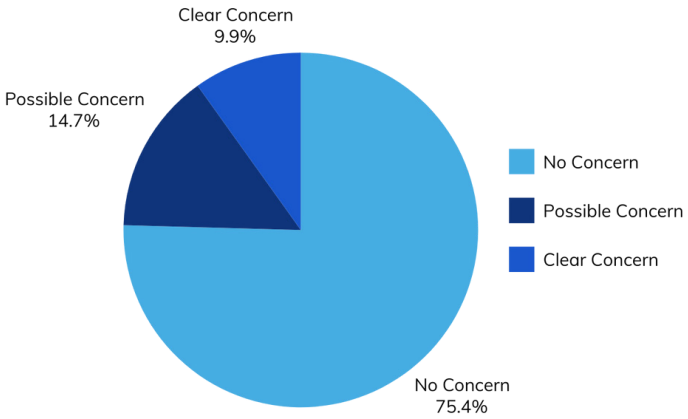


Figure 1: Concern level distribution for all screenings in Texas

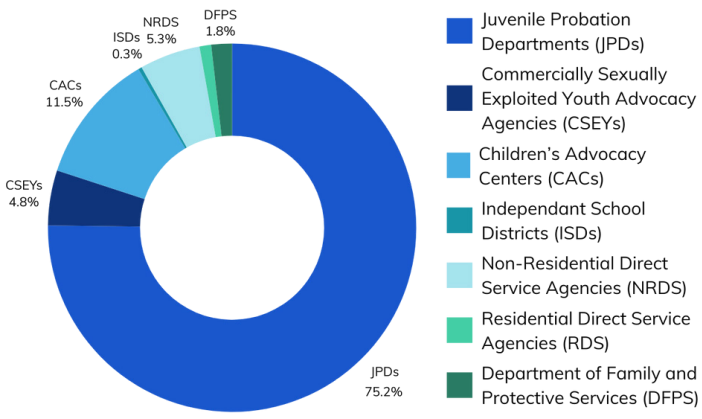


Figure 2: Agency distribution for all screenings in Texas

ed by Juvenile Probation Departments (JPDs), provided by the Texas Juvenile Justice Department (TJJD). Some county JPDs across Texas have been screening since 2018. JPDs are allowed to self-determine how and when they screen; therefore some screen for commercial sexual exploitation universally, others screen only when they identify red flags, while still others might not screen at all. However, per Figure 3, JPD screenings constitute only 30.8% (n=5,097) of all the Clear Concern screenings, and, per Figure 4, only 3.9% of screenings completed by JPDs result in a Clear Concern.

As shown in Figure 2, Children's Advocacy Centers (CACs) constitute 11.5% (n=19,949) of the screenings in Texas, making it the most prevalent agency type to screen using Lighthouse and the second most prevalent agency type to screen in Texas. Figure 3 reveals that screenings conducted by CACs constitute 12.4% of all Clear Concern screenings in Texas, and the results from Figure 4 suggest that this is due to the fact that only 10.2% (n=2,037) of screenings conducted by CACs fall within the Clear Concern category.

According to Figure 2, non-residential direct service agencies (NRDSA) comprise the third largest number of screenings at 5.3% (n=9,286). Screenings by NRDS comprise 11% of all Clear Concern screenings in Texas (Figure 3) and 19.5% of these screenings indicate Clear Concern of human trafficking (Figure 4).

Organizations that are directly geared towards serving youth who have been commercially sexually exploited (CSEY agencies) make up only 4.8% of screenings conducted in Texas per Figure 3. However, CSEY agencies comprise 34.6% (n=5,721) of the Clear Concern screenings (Figure 2) as 68.2% (n=8,387) of these screenings result in Clear Concern (Figure 4).

Screenings by the Texas Department of Family and Protective Services (DFPS) comprise only 1.8% of total screenings in Lighthouse (Figure 2) but 7% of all the Clear Concern screenings (Figure 3). This is because a high percentage (36.9%; n=1,163) of screenings conducted by DFPS result in Clear Concern (Figure 4).

Per Figure 2, Residential Direct Service Agencies (RDSAs) constitute only 1% (n=9,286) of screenings in Texas but 4.1% (n=684) of Clear Concern screenings according to Figure 3. Figure 4 reveals that 38.5% (n=684) of RDSA screenings result in Clear Concern.

Independent school districts (ISDs) constitute the least number of screenings in Lighthouse with only 0.3% (n=557) per Figure 2. The vast majority of these screenings (n=527) have come from only one school district, while another two school districts combined have contributed 30 screenings. While every school district has a different protocol for screening, they all focus their efforts on screening vulnerable students. Overall, the ISD screenings result in 7.5% (n=42) Clear Concern (Figure 4).

Overall, after CSEY agencies, RDSAs and DFPS have a significantly higher percentage of Clear Concern screenings compared to the state-wide average and other agency types in Texas. Furthermore, CSEYs, RDSAs, and DFPS are the only three agencies for which the majority of the screenings are ***not*** No Concern, indicating that these three

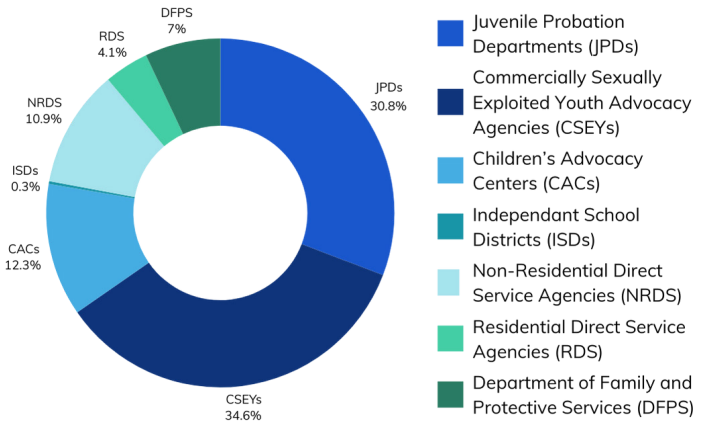


Figure 3: Agency distribution for Clear Concern screenings in Texas

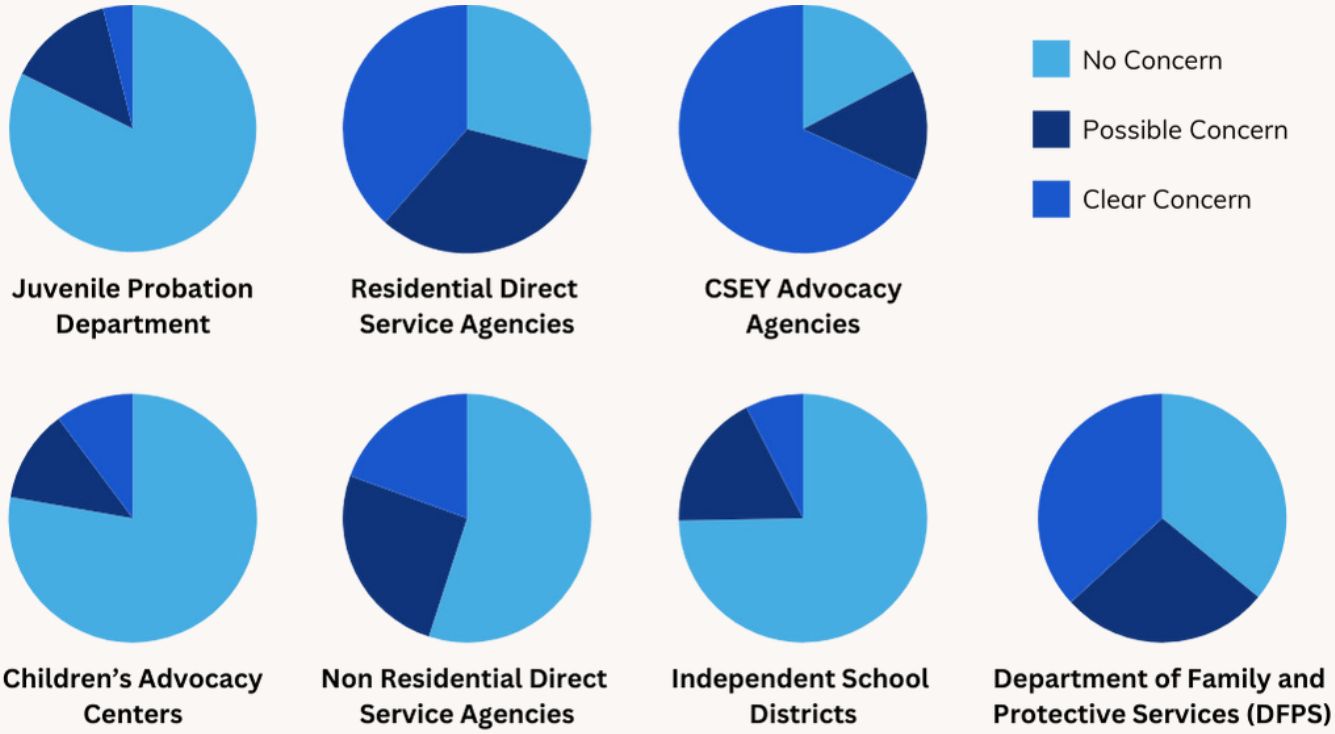


Figure 4: Concern level distribution for all screenings in Texas by agency type

agency types in Texas screen and/or serve mostly suspected victims of trafficking and exploitation. Given the very specialized population they serve, CSEYs and RDSAs mostly have or strive for universal screening at intake.

LOUISIANA

From June 2020 to October 2024, 6,829 screenings were completed in Louisiana for which 18.3% (n=1,239) scored a Clear Concern (Figure 5). Given limitations accessing training to utilize the CSE-IT screener, only care coordinators working at CACs and several close collaborating agencies are able to screen with the CSE-IT in Louisiana.

As a result, Figure 6 shows that care coordinators working at CACs in Louisiana contribute to the majority of the screenings completed in the state (56.7%; n=3,867) but account for 85.4% (n=1,049) of Clear Concern screenings (Figure 7). Figure 8 shows that 27.1% (n=1,049) of screenings conducted by CACs in Louisiana result in Clear Concern, which is much higher than the 10.2% of screening conducted by Texas CACs that result in Clear Concern. This is due to the fact that Louisiana CACs serve as care coordinators and receive youth through referrals based on certain red flags that already indicate that they are likely to be victims of sex trafficking. For this reason throughout the rest

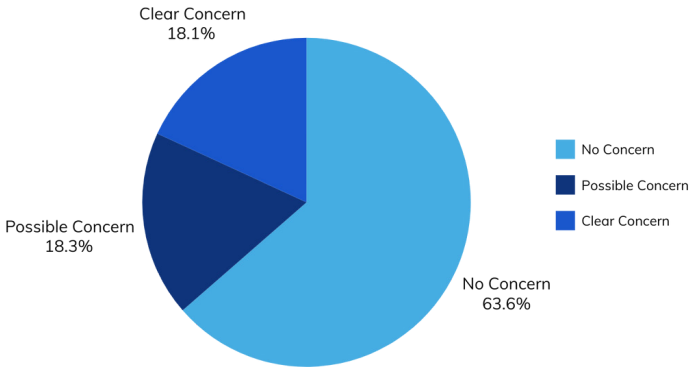


Figure 5: Concern level distribution for all screenings in Louisiana

of the analysis, we will analyze findings from Louisiana and Texas CACs separately.

Beyond the CACs, there is one JPD in Louisiana (Lake Charles, Calcasieu Parish) that has contributed 39.3% (n= 2,682) of all screenings in the state (Figure 6). This JPD performs universal screening for all youth over age 10 and 9.6% (n=118) of Clear Concern screenings in Louisiana come from this JPD (Figure 7). Per Figure 8, only 4.4% (n=118) of the screenings conducted by this JPD result in Clear Concern.

Throughout the rest of the analysis, we will analyze findings from Louisiana and Texas JPDs separately for several reasons: 1) there are inherent differences in screening practices between them as the Louisiana JPD is more rigorous, universal, and rescreens every 6 months; 2) there are differences in data collection such that Louisiana screens directly in Lighthouse whereas Texas is collected directly through TJJD which results in certain variables missing in TJJD data such as gender identity, disability, sexual orientation, and education level; and 3) there are some significant demographic differences in the populations served in both states, particularly with respect to race/ethnicity.

The "Other" category combines Families In Need of Service (FINS), victim advocacy organizations, emergency shelters, and one law enforcement agency which together constitute only 3.9% (n=268) of all screenings in Louisiana (Figure 6). Due to the relatively low numbers of screenings across these four organization types, we do not report on these agency types in Louisiana in the forthcoming analyses.[7]

Collectively, these results show how critical it is to contextualize screening practices and agency types when interpreting these findings. It also suggests that universal screening is the most consistent and best approach to generate the most valid and reliable data and subsequent analysis to arrive at a ground truth in targeting youth who are most vulnerable to sex trafficking.

The forthcoming analysis examines demographic trends and risk indicators for Clear Concern. Where there is enough data, we include a breakdown of the following agency types: JPDs in TX, JPDs in LA, CACs in TX, CACs in LA, CSEY Advocacy Agencies, ISDs, Non Residential Direct Service Agencies,

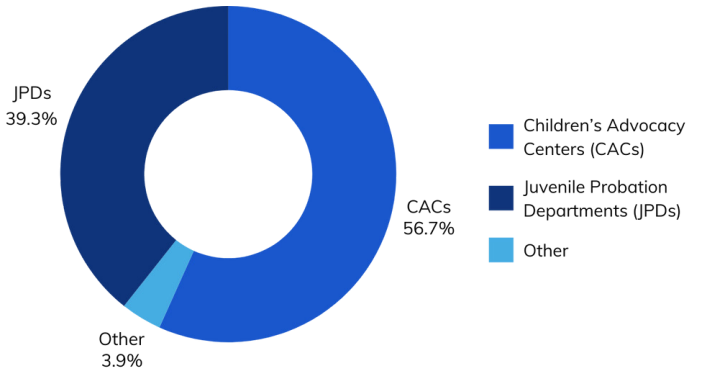


Figure 6: Agency type distribution for all screenings in Louisiana

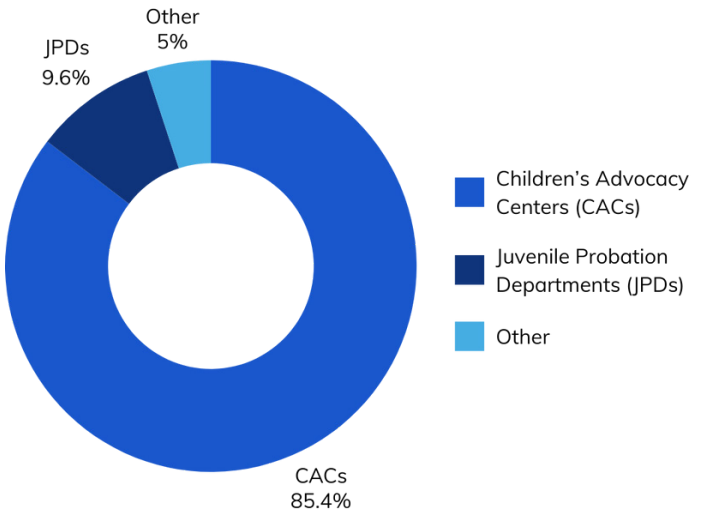


Figure 7: Agency type distribution for clear concern screenings in Louisiana

7 A total of eight FINS agencies have contributed a total of 225 screenings in Louisiana. However, 55% (n=124) of the screenings have come from only one FINS agency. Further, FINS are no longer screening with the CSE-IT and have moved to an alternative strategy to identify children experiencing commercial sexual exploitation. Although victim advocacy organizations in Louisiana are increasingly screening at a higher rate, up to this point they have contributed only 43 screenings.

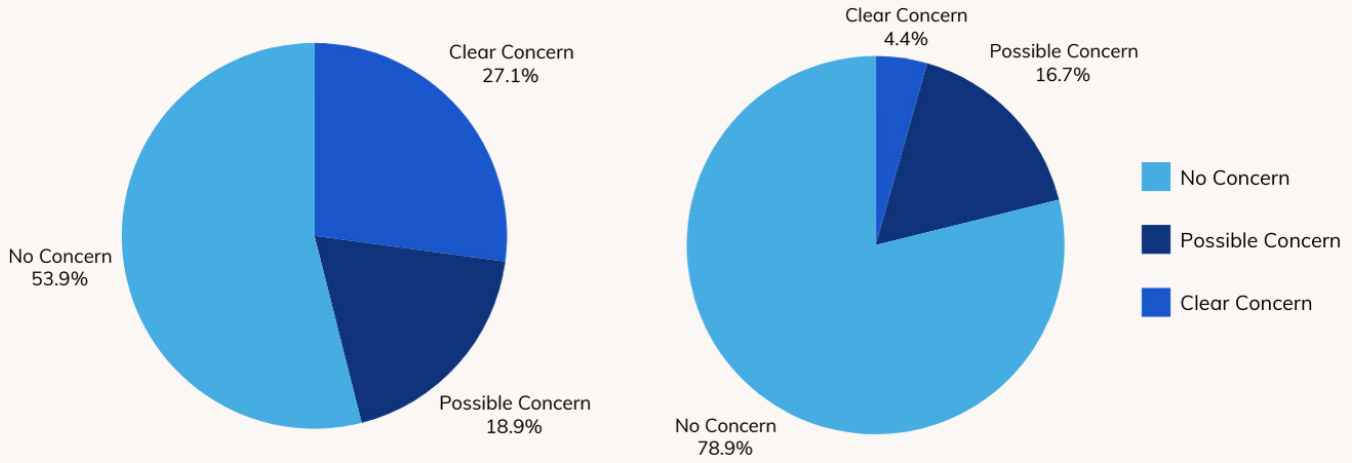


Figure 8: Concern level distribution for CACs (left) and JPDs (right) in Louisiana

and Residential Direct Service Agencies. When the results in Texas and Louisiana are similar, we combine the state findings; however, when they are different we separate them.

Demographic Trends

Exploring demographic trends that reflect Clear Concern screenings based on the agency type is critical as it helps identify populations that are at higher risk for each type of organization that serves vulnerable youth. This allows for more efficient and targeted primary, secondary, and tertiary prevention and intervention efforts. Thus, we examine age, race/ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, and disability characteristics for those scoring Clear Concern on the CSE-IT, segmented by agency type where the data allows.

AGE

First, we examine the average ages of youth screening for Clear Concern by agency type. Table 4 provides a summary of the median and standard deviation for the age of those screened overall and those who screened as Clear Concern by agency type. For all agency types, the median age for Clear Concern is the same or greater than the median age for all screenings. Specifically, the median age of a Clear Concern screening for JPDs and CACs in both Texas and Louisiana is 15 years old, equal to the median age of all screenings. The median age for Clear Concern for DFPS and RDSAs is 16 years old, while it is 17 for both CSEY agencies and NRDSAs.[8] The youngest median age for Clear Concern comes from ISDs at 14 years old.

CACs in Texas and Louisiana, as well as ISDs all serve younger youth compared to other organization types. Even though the age distribution varies significantly between these organization types, for all of them youth under the age of 14 make up more than 50% of their screenings. These are the only three organization types for which this is the case. Still, the median age of Clear Concern for CACs in both states is 15 (14 for ISDs).

8 The standard deviations for both CSEY and NRDSA are larger than for any of the other agencies indicating that, although the median age for Clear Concern is higher than other agencies, there is a much wider spread.

TABLE 4: MEDIAN AGE FOR ALL SCREENINGS AND CLEAR CONCERN SCREENINGS BY AGENCY TYPE

SCREENINGS	JPD - TX	JPD - LA	CAC - TX	CAC - LA	ISD	CSEY	DFPS	NRDSA	RDSA
All	Median: 15 SD: 1.57	Median: 15 SD: 2.19	Median: 13 SD: 3.88	Median: 14 SD: 3.19	Median: 14 SD: 2.52	Median: 16 SD: 4.94	Median: 16 SD: 1.85	Median: 15 SD: 3.88	Median: 15 SD: 2.31
Clear Concern	Median: 15 SD: 1.36	Median: 15 SD: 2.27	Median: 15 SD: 2.67	Median: 15 SD: 2.36	Median: 14 SD: 2.81	Median: 17 SD: 4.43	Median: 16 SD: 1.55	Median: 17 SD: 3.47	Median: 16 SD: 1.96

These age trends are significant for several reasons. First, despite the different age groups that are screened, the median age for Clear Concerns is consistently around 15 to 16 years old. This suggests that within the age range for which the screenings are happening, late teens have higher rates of Clear Concern. Second, the median age of Clear Concern is lowest in ISDs which indicates a significant opportunity for ISDs to intervene early through screening of vulnerable students in their districts.

RACE/ETHNICITY

Next, we analyze race/ethnicity for those who scored Clear Concern. Given the inherent demographic differences in Texas and Louisiana, we analyze race/ethnicity data separately for both states. Additionally, we examine race/ethnicity patterns across different organization types.

As highlighted in the Data Collection section, race and ethnicity data are collected differently depending on the source. For instance, screenings from TJJD, DFPS, and WCC classify race and ethnicity as one singular variable, while Lighthouse screenings treat race and ethnicity as separate variables. In Lighthouse screenings, an individual can be identified as both White and Hispanic, whereas other agencies screening outside of Lighthouse allow only one category—such as White or Hispanic—to be recorded. To ensure consistency in analysis across all data sources, any screening identifying an individual as Hispanic, regardless of additional racial identifiers, is categorized as Hispanic for this analysis. Furthermore, American Indian or Alaska Native, Asian, Middle Eastern or North African, Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander, Multiracial, and Other are categorized as “Other” in the following analysis due to the much lower reporting rates for these racial/ethnic groups.

Texas

Figure 9 shows that across all organization types in Texas, Hispanic/Latino youth represent the plurality of Clear Concern screenings at 34.5% (n=5,966), followed by African American/ Black with 27.2% (n=4,697), and White/Caucasian youth with 21.7 % (n=3,756). The “Other” racial category represents the lowest percentage of Clear Concerns with 5.2% (n=893).

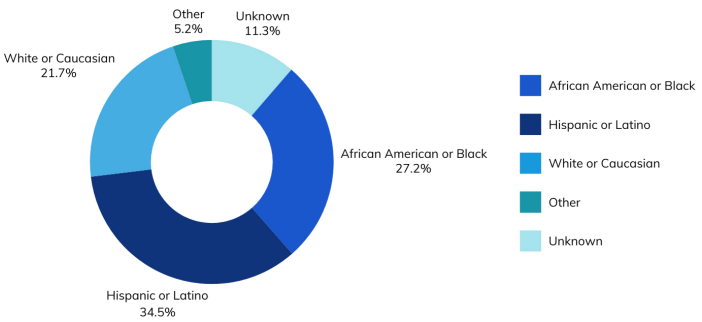


Figure 9: Distribution of race/ethnicity for Clear Concern screenings in Texas

However, it is important to contextualize these rates with the distribution of race/ethnicity for all screenings completed in Texas. Figure 10 highlights that 45.2% (n=79,263) of all screenings across Texas are associated with Hispanic/Latino youth. This means that the rate of Hispanic/Latino youth across all screenings is 10.7 percentage points higher than their rate among Clear Concern screenings. This indicates that Hispanic/Latino youth are less likely to be scored as a Clear Concern on the CSE-IT compared to their overall screening rates.

On the other hand, among all screenings, African American/Black youth represent 24.5% (n=43,026) and White/Caucasian youth constitute 19.1% (n=33,554). These rates are 2.7 and 2.6 percentage points lower, respectively, than their rates among Clear Concern screenings, suggesting these groups are more likely to be scored as Clear Concern vis-a-vis their overall screening rates. Additionally, while "Other" racial/ethnic groups represent only 1.8% (n=3,112) of all screenings, their rate of Clear Concern is disproportionately higher by 3.4 percentage points.

To explore these disparities further, we performed a difference in proportions test for each racial/ethnic group. This statistical test evaluates whether the proportion of Clear Concern screenings within one

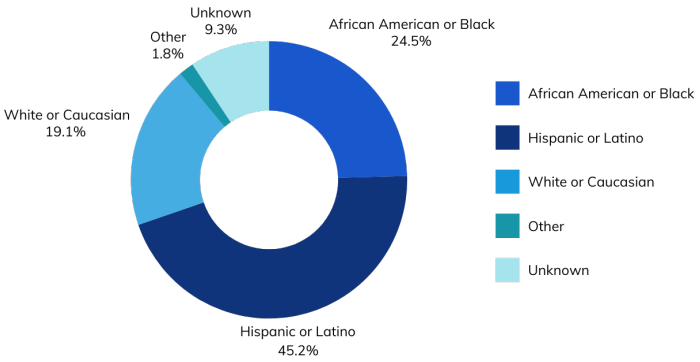


Figure 10: Distribution of race/ethnicity for all screenings in Texas

racial/ethnic group is significantly different from that in another racial/ethnic group and can be found in Table 5. We find that the proportion of Clear Concern for Hispanic/Latino (0.08 or 8%) is statistically lower than the proportion of Clear Concern among all other racial/ethnic groups, indicating that, across Texas, Hispanic/Latino screenings have a lesser likelihood of scoring a Clear Concern. Meanwhile, the proportion of Clear Concern for "Other" racial/ethnic groups (0.29 or 29%) is statistically higher compared to all other racial/ethnic groups. On the other hand, there is no statistical difference in the proportion of Clear Concern between African American/Black and White/Caucasian youth. In other words, across screenings in Texas, these two racial groups have the same likelihood of scoring a Clear Concern.

TABLE 5: DIFFERENCE IN PROPORTIONS TEST (TWO-PROPORTION Z TEST) RESULTS BETWEEN EACH RACIAL/ETHNIC GROUP IN TEXAS

RACE/ETHNICITY GROUP 1	RACE/ETHNICITY GROUP 2	PROPORTION OF CLEAR CONCERN FOR GROUP 1*	PROPORTION OF CLEAR CONCERN FOR GROUP 2*	Z-STATISTIC*	P-VALUE*
White or Caucasian	African American or Black	0.11	0.11	1.21	0.22
White or Caucasian	Hispanic or Latino	0.11	0.08	20.06	**0.00**
White or Caucasian	Other	0.11	0.29	-28.06	**0.00**
African American or Black	Hispanic or Latino	0.11	0.08	20.07	**0.00**
African American or Black	Other	0.11	0.29	-29.35	**0.00**
Hispanic or Latino	Other	0.08	0.29	-41.93	**0.00**

* All statistics are rounded to the nearest second decimal point.

We further contextualize these findings by examining racial/ethnic groups in Texas by organization types. Alongside descriptive analysis, we perform difference in proportions tests between the proportion of a racial/ethnic group for an organization type within Clear Concern screenings and the proportion of a racial/ethnic group for an organization type for all screenings.[9]

The proportion of Hispanic/Latino within Clear Concern screenings is significantly lower than the proportion of Hispanic/Latino within all screenings for Texas JPDs, DFPS, Texas CACs, and NRDSAs, with p-values all smaller than 0.05. Most notably, Figure 12 shows that the majority (55.59%; n=11,087) of screenings completed by CACs in Texas are among Hispanic/Latino youth, but Figure 11 reveals that only 32.9% (n=670) of Clear Concerns are Hispanic/Latino. This could be attributed to the high numbers of Hispanic/Latino screenings coming from CACs in South Texas which have a high volume of screenings, screen all clients ages 0 to 18, and serve almost exclusively Hispanic/Latino. In other words, the disproportionate number of screenings from this region for Texas CACs, coupled with the fact that they conduct universal screening regardless of age, skews the results towards lower rates of Clear Concern.

However, regional demographic differences and screening protocol discrepancies do not explain the significantly lower proportion of Hispanic/Latino youth within Clear Concern screenings for JPDs, DFPS, and NRDSAs. The plurality of JPD and NRDSA screenings come from North Texas (33.68%, n=44,033; 44.0%, n=4083 respectively) as a result of regional leadership encouraging screening practices. North Texas has lower rates

9 Appendix A, Table 1

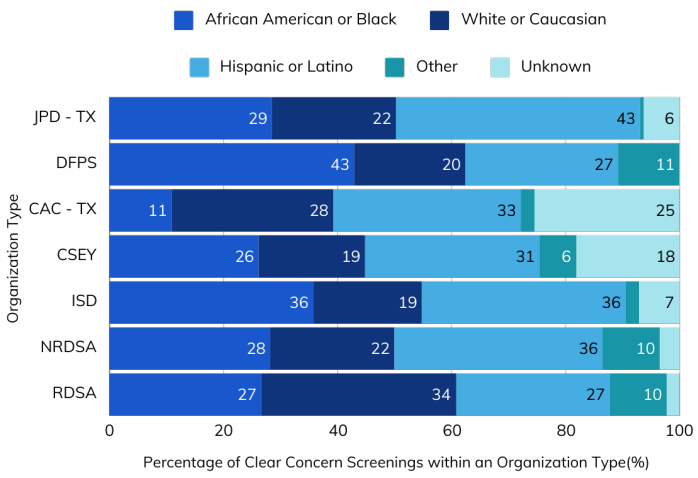


Figure 11: Distribution of race/ethnicity by organization type for Clear Concern screenings in Texas

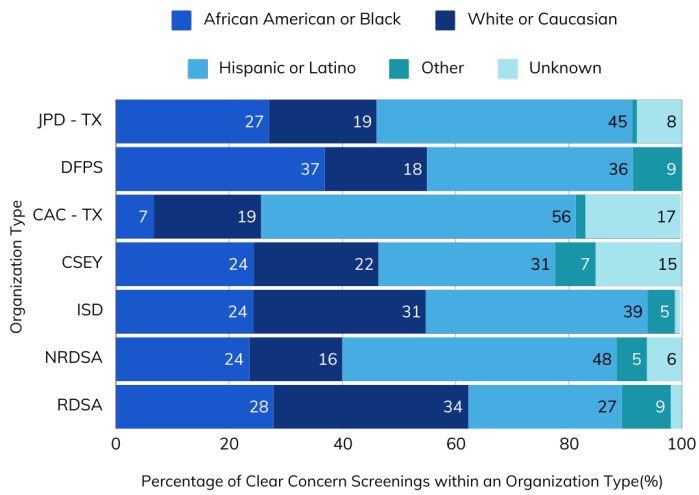


Figure 12: Distribution of race/ethnicity by organization type for all screenings in Texas

of Hispanic/Latino youth than other parts of Texas. Nonetheless, Hispanic/Latino individuals make up 48.44% (n=4,498) of all screenings completed by NRDSAs; however, they comprise only 36.49% (n=660) of all Clear Concern screenings. There is no statistically significant difference in the proportion of Hispanic/Latino within Clear Concern screenings and all screenings for Hispanic/Latino youth screened by CSEYs, ISDs, and RDSAs.

The proportion of African American/Black within Clear Concern screenings is significantly higher than the proportion of African American/Black within all screenings for JPDs, DFPS, CACs, CSEYs, and NRDSAs, with p-values smaller than 0.05. Most notably, Figure 12 reveals that 36.88% (n=1,164) of all DFPS screenings are attached to African American/Black, but Figure 11 shows that 42.9% (n=498) of Clear Concerns are African American/Black youth.

The proportion of White/Caucasian within Clear Concern screenings is significantly higher than the proportion of White/Caucasian within all screenings for JPDs and CACs, with p-values smaller than 0.05. Only 18.96% (n=3,782) of all CAC screenings are among White/Caucasian youth (Figure 12), but they account for 28.32% (n=577) of CAC Clear Concern screenings (Figure 11). On the other hand, the opposite is true for CSEY agencies where White/Caucasian individuals make up 22.05% (n=1,849) of all screenings (Figure 12), but only 18.67% (n=1,068) of the Clear Concerns (Figure 11), which is statistically lower with p-value smaller than 0.05.

Finally, the proportion of “Other” racial/ethnic groups within Clear Concern screenings is significantly higher than the proportion of “Other” within all screenings for DFPS, CACs, and NRDSAs, with p-values smaller than 0.05. Most notably for NRDSAs, while only 5.4% (n=501) of all screenings are attached to “Other” racial/ethnic groups (Figure 12), 10.02% (n=181) of the Clear Concerns are “Other” (Figure 11). There are no statistically significant differences between the proportions for “Other” racial/ethnic groups for Clear Concern and all screenings completed by other organization types.

Louisiana

Per Figure 13, across all organization types in Louisiana, White/Caucasian youth have the highest number of Clear Concerns at 44.6% (n=545), followed closely by African American/Black with 41.4% (n=506). Hispanic/Latino and the "Other" racial/ethnic groups have the lowest number of Clear Concerns at 8.3% (n=101) and 2.9% (n=35), respectively.

Next, we contextualize these Clear Concern rates by comparing them to the distribution of race/ethnicity for all screenings completed in Louisiana. Per Figure 14, we find that 45.2% (n=3,087) of all screenings across Louisiana are associated with African American/Black youth, which is 3.8 percentage points higher than their Clear Concern rate (Figure 13). This indicates that African American/Black youth are less likely to be scored as a Clear Concern on the CSE-IT compared to their overall screening rates. This may be due to JPDs screening majority African American/Black youth, but the Clear Concern rates among JPDs are much lower than CACs. A similar pattern emerges for "Other" racial/ethnic groups, which represent 4% (n=274) of all screenings (Figure 14), but only 2.9% (n=35) of Clear Concerns (Figure 13).

On the other hand, the opposite pattern is present for Hispanic/Latino and White youth. Hispanic/Latino youth constitute only 4.9% (n=333) of all screenings (Figure 14), which is 3.4 percentage points lower than their rate among Clear Concern screenings (Figure 13). Similarly, White/Caucasian youth make up 42.7% (n=2,916) of all screenings (Figure 14) but 44.6% (n=545) of Clear Concern screenings (Figure 13). In other words, Hispanic/Latino and White youth screened in Louisiana represent a higher proportion of Clear Concern screenings as compared to overall screening rates.

Table 6 provides the results of difference in proportions tests between each race/ethnic group in Louisiana. The results show that the proportion of Clear Concern among African American/Black (0.16 or 16%) is statistically lower than the proportion of Clear Concern among White/Caucasian (0.19; p=0.02) and Hispanic/Latino (0.30; p=0.00). While there is no statistically significant difference between African American/Black and "Other," Hispanic/Latino and White/Caucasian have statistically higher proportions of Clear Concern compared to "Other" racial/ethnic groups. Finally, Hispanic/Latino also have a statistically higher proportion of Clear Concern compared to White/Caucasian in Louisiana.

Thus, there are striking differences in Clear Concern among racial/ethnic groups in Texas and Louisiana. In Texas, Hispanic/Latino youth are screened at higher rates but are significantly less likely to screen Clear Concern as compared to all other race/ethnic groups. In Louisiana, the opposite is true where Hispanic/Latino youth are screened at lesser rates but are significantly more likely to screen Clear Concern

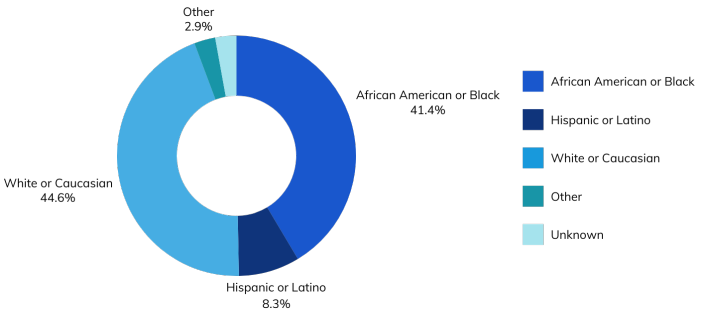


Figure 13: Distribution of race/ethnicity for Clear Concern screenings in Louisiana

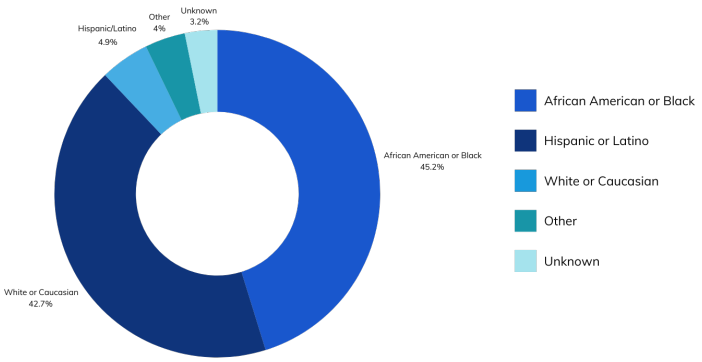


Figure 14: Distribution of race/ethnicity for all screenings in Louisiana

as compared to all other racial/ethnic groups. As in Texas, these results are important to examine in the context of the organizations conducting the screenings because of the variability in the unique characteristics of the youth they serve and their screening practices.

TABLE 6: DIFFERENCE IN PROPORTIONS TEST (TWO-PROPORTION Z TEST) RESULTS BETWEEN EACH RACE/ETHNICITY GROUP IN LOUISIANA

RACE/ETHNICITY GROUP 1	RACE/ETHNICITY GROUP 2	PROPORTION OF CLEAR CONCERN FOR GROUP 1*	PROPORTION OF CLEAR CONCERN FOR GROUP 2*	Z-STATISTIC*	P-VALUE*
African American or Black	Hispanic or Latino	0.16	0.30	-6.32	**0.00**
African American or Black	White or Caucasian	0.16	0.19	-2.34	**0.02**
African American or Black	Other	0.16	0.13	1.56	0.12
Hispanic or Latino	White or Caucasian	0.30	0.19	5.04	**0.00**
Hispanic or Latino	Other	0.30	0.13	5.16	**0.00**
White or Caucasian	Other	0.19	0.13	2.43	**0.02**

* All statistics are rounded to the nearest second decimal point.

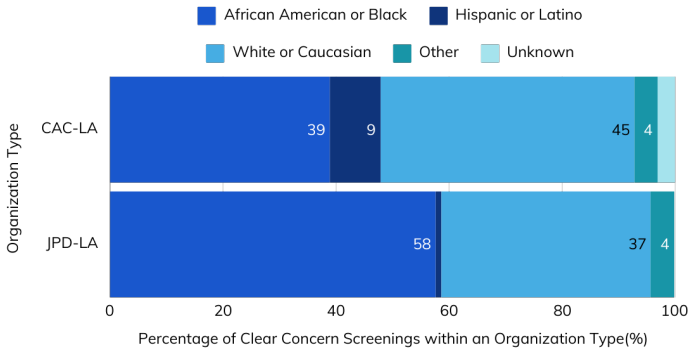


Figure 15: Distribution of race/ethnicity by agency type for Clear Concern screenings in Louisiana

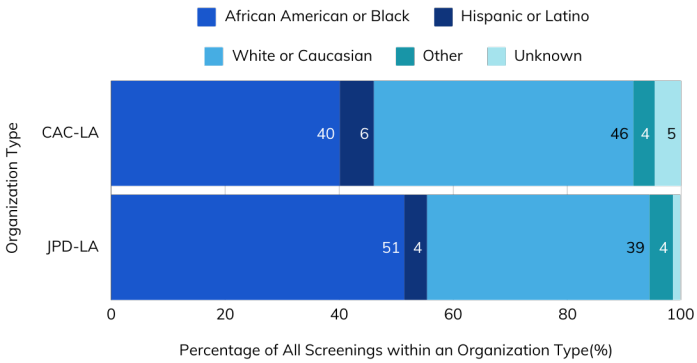


Figure 16: Distribution of race/ethnicity by agency type for all screenings in Louisiana

Alongside descriptive analysis, we perform difference in proportions tests between the proportion of a racial/ethnic group for an organization type within Clear Concern screenings and the proportion of a racial/ethnic group for an organization type for all screenings. See Appendix A, Table 2 for these results.

GENDER

In addition to age and race/ethnicity, we examine the gender composition of those scoring Clear Concern on the CSE-IT. Overall, across all agency types, 77.62% (n=14,365) of Clear Concern are females while only 11.91% (n=2,204) are male.

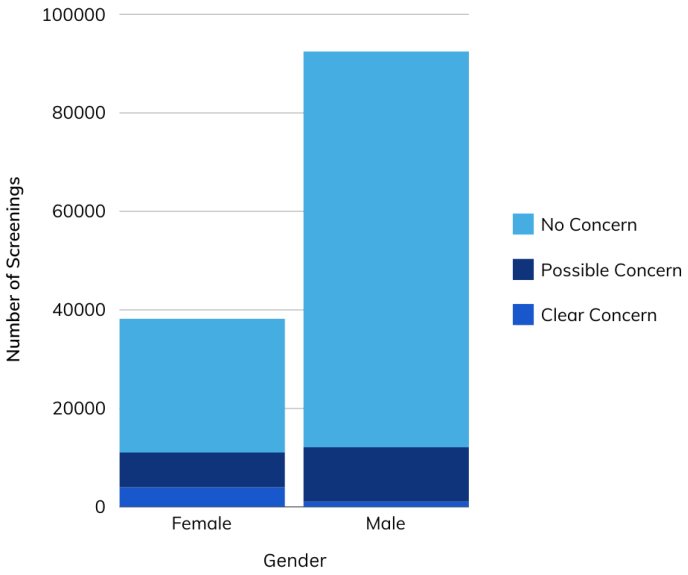


Figure 17: Gender Distribution by Concern Level for Texas JPD Screenings

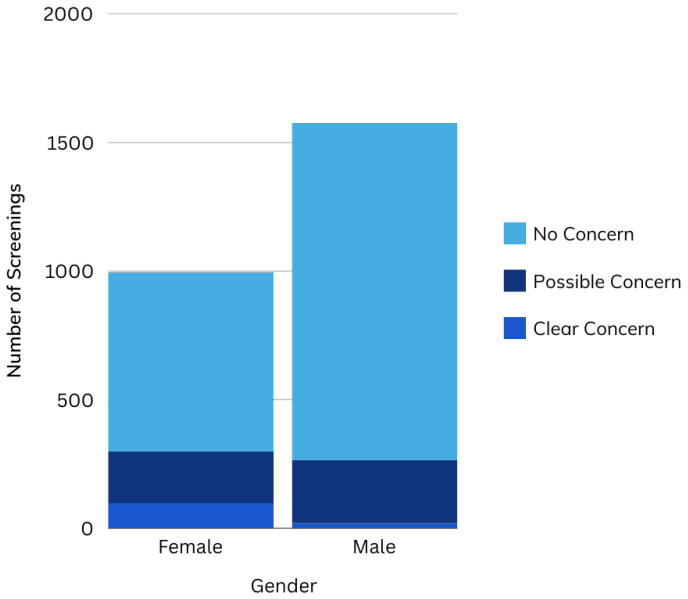


Figure 18: Gender distribution by concern level for Louisiana JPD screenings

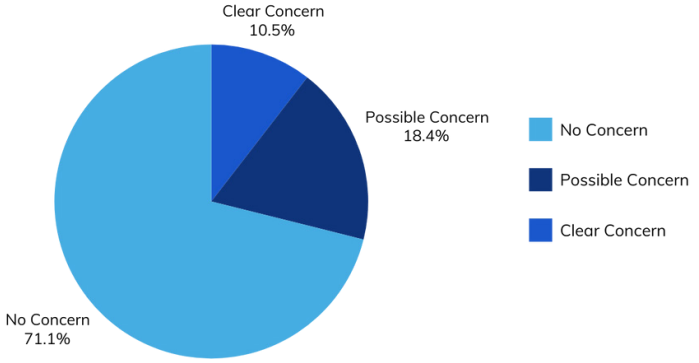


Figure 19: Concern level distribution for female screenings in Texas and Louisiana JPDs combined

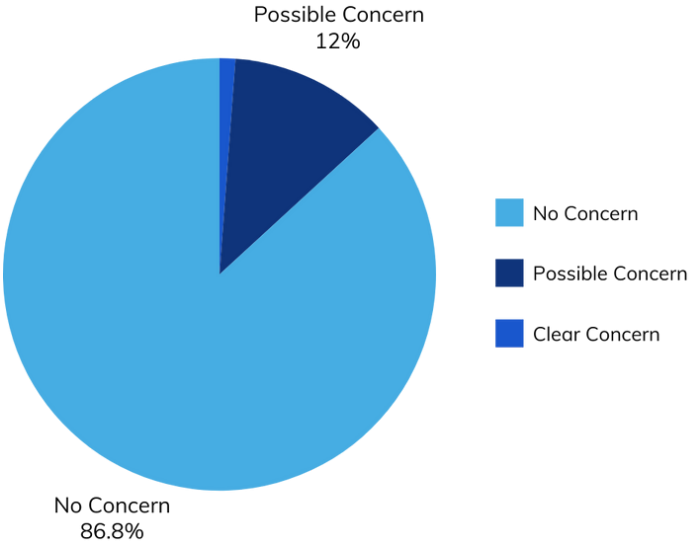


Figure 20: Concern level distribution for male screenings in Texas and Louisiana JPDs combined

However, as with age and race/ethnicity, it is important to break down these results by agency type given the different populations they serve.

JPDs in both Texas and Louisiana are the only agencies that screen more males than females. This is due to the fact that a majority of the youth served in JPDs are male.[10] However, despite the fact that 70% (n=92,498) of Texas JPD screenings are of males (Figure 17), males comprise only 20% (n=1,088) of the Clear Concern screenings. A similar trend is reflected in Louisiana JPD screenings where

10 The State of Juvenile Probation Activity in Texas: Statistical and Other Data on the Juvenile Justice system in Texas, 2022.

59% (n=1,575) of the screenings are males, but they comprise only 17% (n=20) of Clear Concern (Figure 18).

Combined, JPDs in Louisiana and Texas have screened 39,227 females, of which 10.5% (n=4,119) yield a Clear Concern screening result (Figure 19). Given that JPDs in both states screen at very high rates, it is not unreasonable to conclude that roughly 10.5% of females in these agencies are a Clear Concern for commercial sexual exploitation. On the other hand, the JPDs combined in both states have screened a total of 94,703 males, and 1.2% (n=1,136) scored Clear Concern for sex trafficking (Figure 20).

Beyond JPDs in both states, all the other organization types screen more female youth than male youth, and all of these agencies have significantly higher numbers of females scoring Clear Concern than males. Specifically, for Texas CACs, 11.62% (n=1,258) of female screenings yield Clear Concern, while only 2.54% (n=111) of male screenings do. For Louisiana CACs, 30.94% (n=933) of females screened are Clear Concern versus 12.22% (n=82) of males. Almost half of females screened by DFPS (46.94%; n=945) and RDSAs (48.07%; n=623) in Texas yield Clear Concern versus only 19.00% (n=217) of DFPS males and 9.58% (n=39) of RDSA males screened. Similar patterns hold for NRDSAs and the one ISD in Texas. 29.06% (n=1,416) of females screened in NRDSAs show signs of Clear Concern for sex trafficking while only 7.70% (n=306) of males do, and 12.4% (n=37) of females screened in the ISD in Texas scored Clear Concern versus only 1.6% (n=4) of males. Among the starkest contrasts, however, are CSEY organizations for which 70.72% (n=4,325) of females screened show Clear Concern versus 32.10% (n=303) of males.

These results show that, regardless of the organization doing the screening, females are significantly more likely than males to score Clear Concern for sex trafficking. It is possible that these results are due to the CSE-IT being potentially biased towards detecting sex trafficking of females, that organizations are more likely to screen females and therefore detect more females, or that organizations overlook males due to their ability to better serve females than males. However, until we explore these potential explanations, the results consistently reveal a greater vulnerability among female youth than male youth for sex trafficking. That said, there are still alarming numbers of males who score Clear Concern across these youth-serving agencies in Texas and Louisiana with very few exclusively male-serving organizations. This suggests an ongoing need for male-specific intervention models.

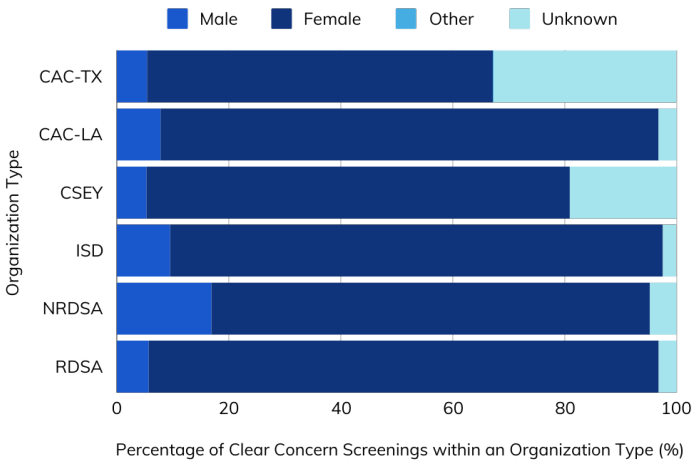


Figure 21: Gender distribution by organization type for all Clear Concern screenings

SEXUAL ORIENTATION AND GENDER IDENTITY

There is a growing body of evidence regarding the heightened vulnerability to sex trafficking among LGBTQ+ youth.[11] As such, organizations who submit screenings through Lighthouse–including Louisiana and Texas CACs, CSEY agencies, ISDs, NRDSA, and RDSAs–have the option to enter supplemental demographic information on gender identity and

11 Georges, Emily. "Review of the Literature on the Intersection of LGBTQ Youth and CSEC: More Than a Monolith." Current Pediatrics Reports 11, no. 4 (2023): 105-115.

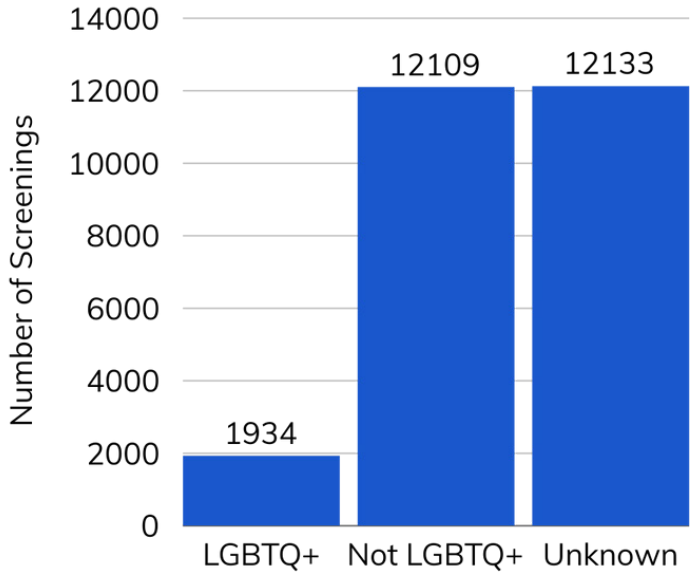


Figure 22: Sexual orientation and gender identity distribution for Texas and Louisiana CACs, CSEY agencies, ISDs, Louisiana JPD, NRDSAs, and RDSAs

sexual orientation.[12] They also have the option of selecting "Unknown" if they do not know.

Figure 22 shows that, out of the 40,183 screenings entered through Lighthouse, 65% (n=26,176) answered the question about gender identity or sexual orientation; however, only 51% (n=13,273) of those were able to identify if the youth was LGBTQ+ or not. In other words, we have actual data on the sexual orientation and gender identity of 13,273 youth who have been screened in Lighthouse.

For the purpose of this analysis, LGBTQ+ is coded if ***either*** sexual orientation was entered as something other than heterosexual ***or*** gender identity was entered as something other than male or female. On the other hand, "Not LGBTQ+" is coded as such if sexual orientation was entered as heterosexual ***and*** gender identity was entered as male or female. All other individuals are categorized as "Unknown" because, while some element of their gender identity or sexual orientation was completed on the screener, not enough information was filled out to make a determination as to whether the youth was LGBTQ+ or not.

Given the relatively low numbers of screenings for which this data is collected per agency type, we analyze this variable collectively for all organization types together. We find that 41.3% (n=799) of LGBTQ+ youth score Clear Concern (Figure 23). This is in contrast to only 18.5% (n=2,238) of non-LGBTQ+ youth, which is a statistically significant difference (Figure 24).[13]

In other words, per the growing body of evidence, the screenings provide significant evidence that LGBTQ+ youth are more vulnerable to sex trafficking than those who do not identify as LGBTQ+. Re-

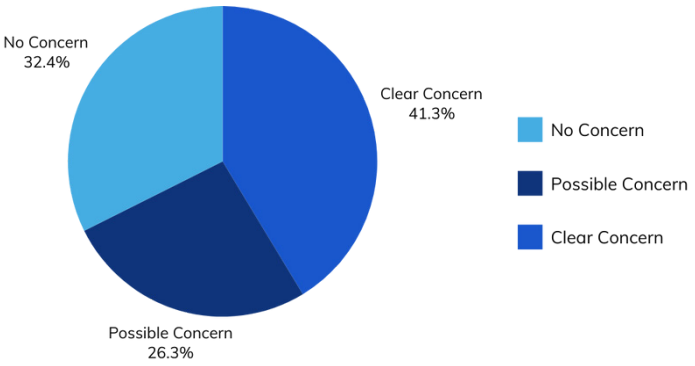


Figure 23: Concern level distribution for LBGTQ+

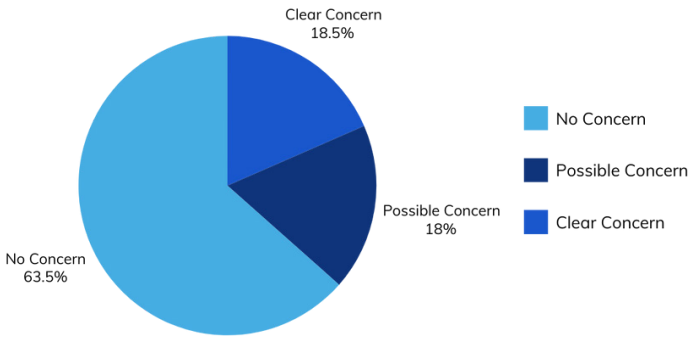


Figure 24: Concern level distribution for non-LGBTQ+

12 JPDs in Texas and Louisiana do not collect this information.

13 In order to confirm that these results are not skewed by organization type, we analyzed the breakdown of Clear Concern among LGBTQ+ and non-LGBTQ+ by organization type. We found a relatively similar distribution of organization types within Clear Concern screenings for non-LGBTQ+ and LGBTQ+ and therefore have no reason to believe that our findings are influenced by inherent differences in concern level distributions by organization type.

search suggests that there are a variety of reasons for this, including homelessness, polyvictimization, family rejection and social marginalization, and discrimination by employers and shelters. These findings highlight the critical importance of collecting information about sexual orientation and gender identity in screenings.

DISABILITY

Research suggests that youth with disabilities are at high risk for commercial sexual exploitation.[14] Organizations that submit their screenings through Lighthouse have the option to enter supplemental demographic information on disability. Disability data entry options include physical disability, intellectual disability, other, both, no disability, or unknown. In the analysis below, we combine all screenings that indicated any disability as "Indicated Disability". Out of the 40,183 screenings entered through Lighthouse, information on disability has been entered for 28.6% (n=11,478) screenings. Below we present results only for screenings for which disability information was entered.

The following organization types that screen in Lighthouse have entered information on disability: Louisiana CACs, Texas CACs, CSEY Agencies, ISDs, NRDSA, and RDSAs. Most of the data on disability comes from Texas CACs with the second highest coming from Louisiana CACs. Among Texas CACs, 39.21% (n=7,313) of screenings completed in Lighthouse have disability information while 46.45% (n=1,307) of screenings completed by Louisiana CACs in Lighthouse have disability data. After Louisiana CACs, ISDs are most consistent in entering data on disability as 46.4% (n=258) of the screenings entered by ISDs include disability information. On the other hand, despite the large number of

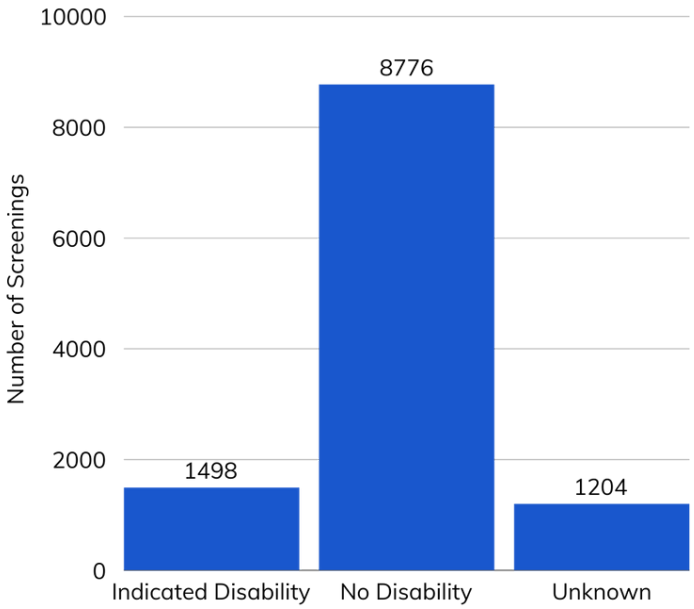


Figure 25: Disability distribution for all screenings collected in Lighthouse by Texas and Louisiana CACs, CSEY agencies, ISDs, Louisiana JPD, NRDSAs, and RDSAs

screenings from CSEY agencies, only 8.62% (n=626) entered information about disability.

Per Figure 25, among the screenings in Lighthouse that include information about disability, 13.05% (n=1,498) have some disability, 76.46% (n=8,776) do not have a disability, while the remaining 10.49% (n=1,204) are unknown. Figure 26 reveals that 16.8% (n=252) of those with a disability scored Clear Concern on the screener. This is in contrast to 10% (n=880) of those without a disability scoring Clear Concern (Figure 27). In other words, the percentage of youth that are Clear Concern is statistically higher for those with a disability than those without a disability.[15]

14 Franchino-Olsen, H., Silverstein, H.A., Kahn, N.F. and Martin, S.L. (2018), "Minor sex trafficking of girls with disabilities", International Journal of Human Rights in Healthcare, Vol. 13 No. 2, pp. 97-108. https://doi.org/10.1108/IJHRH-07-2019-0055

15 In order to confirm that these results are not skewed by organization type, we analyzed the breakdown of Clear Concern among Indicated Disability and No Disability by organization type. We found a relatively similar distribution of organization types within Clear Concern screenings for Indicated Disability and No Disability and therefore have no reason to believe that our findings are influenced by inherent differences in concern level distributions by organization type.

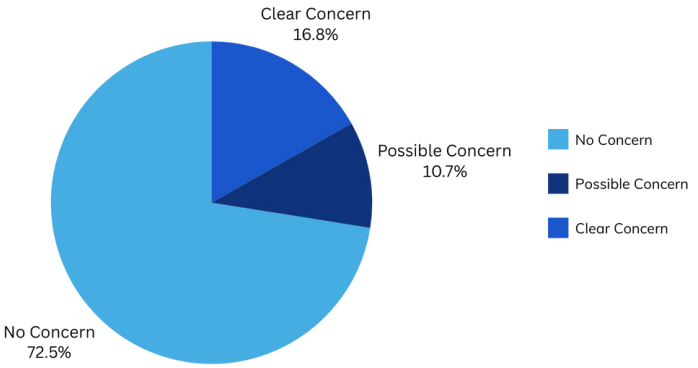


Figure 26: Concern level distribution for screenings with indicated disability

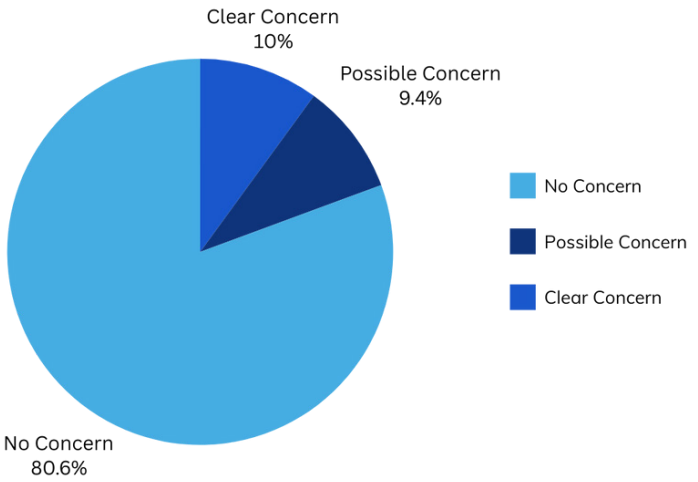


Figure 27: Concern level distribution for screenings with no disability

Risk indicators

In addition to analyzing the demographic trends among Clear Concern screenings, we also assess the top indicators among those with Clear Concern from the CSE-IT, broken down by agency type. The CSE-IT includes 46 indicators divided into eight sections. The numbers below refer to the section and question on the CSE-IT, which can be referenced in Appendix B. The following five indicators emerge as the most prevalent across all Clear Concern screenings:

1. **1a-Runaway:** Youth runs away or frequently leaves their residence for extended periods (overnight, days, weeks).
2. **1g-Child Protective Services:** Youth has current or past involvement with the child welfare system.
3. **2a-Sexually Abused:** Youth has been sexually abused.
4. **4f-JJ/LE Involvement:** Youth has current or past involvement with law enforcement or the juvenile justice system.
5. **6c-Risk-Taking Behaviors:** Youth engages in self-destructive, aggressive, or risk-taking behaviors.

Figure 28 reveals that, regardless of organization type, these top five indicators are strong predictors for Clear Concern screenings and presumed trafficking victimization. A staggering 95.9% (n=17,747) of all Clear Concern screenings in Texas and Louisiana include at least one of these indicators. Across all organization types, Child Protective Services (CPS) involvement and Risk-taking behaviors consistently rank as the strongest indicators.

Yet, there are notable differences in how prevalent these indicators are within each organization type. For example, involvement in law enforcement/juvenile justice (JJ/LE) varies the most across organizations. Only 28% of all Clear Concern screenings by CACs in Louisiana, 38% by CACs in Texas, and 26% of ISDs include this indicator. In contrast, all other organization types report a prevalence of over 50% for this indicator. These differences most likely stem from the populations served. For example, CACs in Louisiana and Texas, as well as ISDs, typically serve younger youth compared to other organizations.

The sexually abused indicator also shows variability. CSEY agencies, CACs in Texas and Louisiana, NRDSAs, and RDASs report that at least 62% of Clear Concern screenings include a history of sexual abuse. Meanwhile, organizations such as DFPS, ISDs, and JPDs report lower prevalence rates for this indicator. Again, this disparity likely reflects differences in the populations served, as CSEYs, CACs,

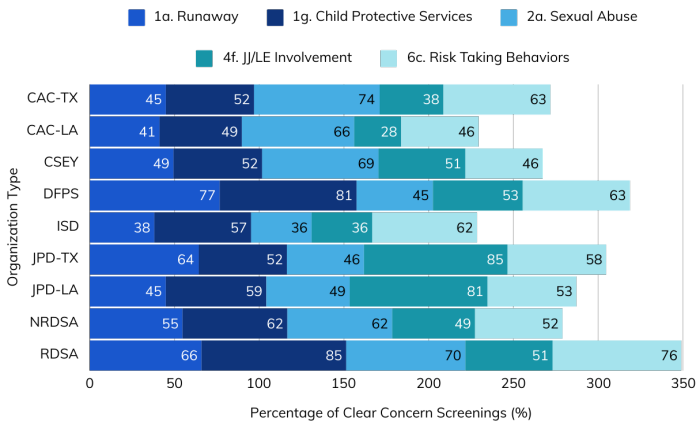


Figure 28: Percentage of Clear Concern screenings including the top five indicators by agency type

NRDSAs, and RDSAs frequently work with individuals who have experienced exploitation or abuse.

While the five indicators above rank as the highest prevalence indicators across all Clear Concern screenings, when we examine the top five indicators by agency type, different sets of indicators emerge. Figure 29 shows the top five indicators for each organization type.

First, we assess which agency types have the top five overall indicators in their top five. Current or past involvement with Child Protective Services appears as a top five indicator for seven out of eight organization types, with CACs in Texas being the only exception. Moreover, it appears as the most prevalent indicator for Clear Concerns for half of the agency types: NRDSAs, RDSAs, DFPS, and Louisiana CACs. It is the second most prevalent indicator for ISDs. Clearly, a history of involvement with Child Protective Services is a major vulnerability for Clear Concern of sex trafficking victimization.

In addition to CPS involvement, risk-taking behavior also appears as a top five indicator of Clear Concern for seven of the eight agencies conducting screenings, making it among the most important indicators in combination with others. This includes Texas and Louisiana JPDs and CACs, as well as DFPS, RDSAs, and ISDs. However, unlike CPS involvement, it is the most prevalent indicator only for ISDs, highlighting the importance of ISDs in screening youth whose behavior appears to be dangerous.

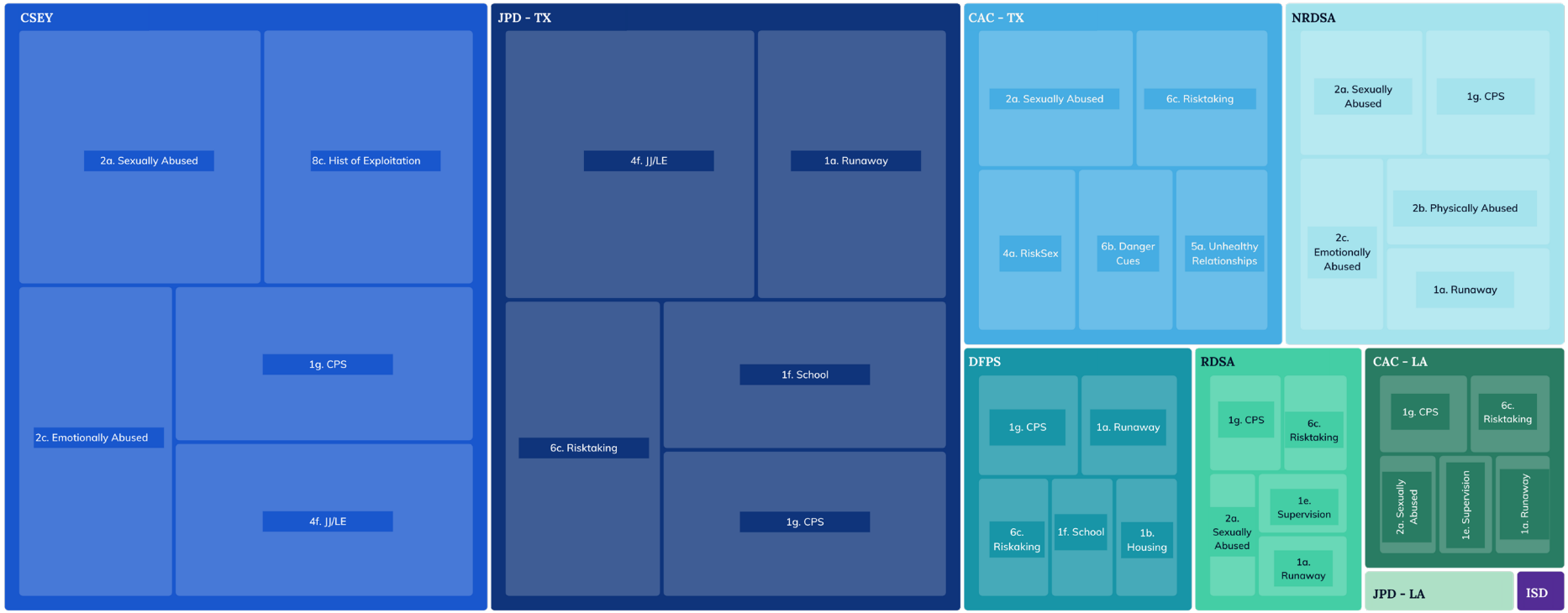
The next most prevalent indicator of Clear Concern across seven of the eight agency types is a history of sexual abuse. This is the number one indicator for CSEY agencies, Texas CACs, and NDRSAs, and among the top five for Louisiana CACs, Louisiana JPDs, and ISDs.

Runaway is a top five indicator for five of the agency types including Texas JPDs, DFPS, NRDSAs, RDSAs, and Louisiana CACs. Although it is not the number one indicator for any of the agency types, runaway is the second most prevalent indicator for Texas JPDs and DFPS.

Law enforcement or juvenile justice involvement is a top five indicator for three agency types. Not surprisingly, it is the number one indicator of Clear Concern for both Texas and Louisiana JPDs. This indicator being among the top five may be skewed by the disproportionate number of screenings coming from JPDs in Texas and Louisiana. On the other hand, it is also a top five indicator for CSEY agencies which serve children who are already known to be likely victims of sexual exploitation, making it an important factor in monitoring risk.

Beyond the overall top indicators, it is instructive to look at other key indicators that do not appear in the overall top five but do emerge in the top five for specific agencies. Parent/caregiver being unable to provide adequate supervision is a top five indicator for NRDSAs, Louisiana CACs, and ISDs. Irregular school attendance, including frequent or prolonged tardiness or absences, is a top five indicator of Clear Concern for Texas and Louisiana JPDs and DFPS. Emotional abuse is a top five indicator for CSEYs and NRDSAs. Youth having difficulty detecting or responding to danger cues is in the top five indicators for both Texas CACs and ISDs. Several other indicators show up in the top five for only one agency. These indicators are: physical abuse (NRDSA), engaging in sexual behavior that places them at risk

Figure 29: Top five indicators by agency type for Clear Concern Screenings*



*The size of the boxes represent the number of Clear Concern Screenings.

Zoomed in View of Top 5 Indicators in Clear Concern Screenings for JPD-LA and ISDs

for victimization (Texas CACs), unhealthy or romantic relationship with an adult (Texas CACs), and unstable housing, including multiple foster/group homes (DFPS).

Overall, there are some key takeaways regarding top indicators of Clear Concern. First, the top indicators by agency type track with the populations each agency type serves. Second, indicators from Section 1 of the CSE-IT, which relates to housing and caregiving, and Section 2, relating to prior abuse or trauma, have the most indicators in the top five among the most number of agencies. Finally, there are no indicators from Section 3 (physical health and appearance) or Section 7 (coercion) that appear as top five indicators in clear concern screenings among any of the agencies.

However, we approach these results with caution as there may be a tendency among screeners to fill out the beginning of the screener (Sections 1 and 2 in particular) more thoroughly and meticulously than later sections. When there is a Clear Concern based on the answers to the questions in these two sections, screeners may not find it necessary to complete the remainder of the questionnaire as closely. In order to overcome this possible bias, it is critical that screeners complete the entire questionnaire thoroughly even if they already know from early questions that the youth is a Clear Concern for sexual exploitation in order to get the most thorough picture of indicators and polyvictimization that leads to vulnerability.

In addition to examining the risk indicators of Clear Concern overall and by agency type, we also assess the differences in risk indicators between male and female youth who scored Clear Concern on the CSE-IT across all agency types. Interestingly, four out of the five indicators are the same for males and females; however, they appear in different orders.

Per Figures 30 and 31, involvement with juvenile justice or law enforcement (JJ/LE) is among the top five indicators for both males and females. As the top indicator for males, 67.5% (n=1,489) of all males who scored a Clear concern on the CSE-IT also have past/current involvement with JJ/LE. However, it is critical to note that 50.18% (n=1,108) of all male Clear Concern screenings come from JPDs which is probably skewing these results. Meanwhile, 57.19% (n=8,217) of all female Clear Concerns have past/current involvement with JJ/LE while only 28.59% (n=4,107) of female Clear Concern screenings come from JPDs. Thus, regardless of gender, JJ/LE involvement is a strong indicator for Clear Concern.

The top indicator for females is sexual abuse, with 61.4% (n= 8,826) of all Clear Concern screenings reflecting the female youth had experienced sexual abuse. This is not among the top five indicators for males of whom 32.35% (n=713) of Clear Concern screenings had experienced sexual abuse.

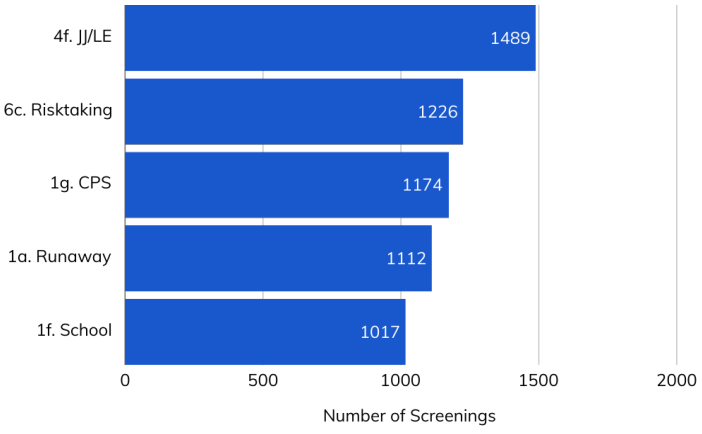


Figure 30: Top five indicators of Clear Concern among males

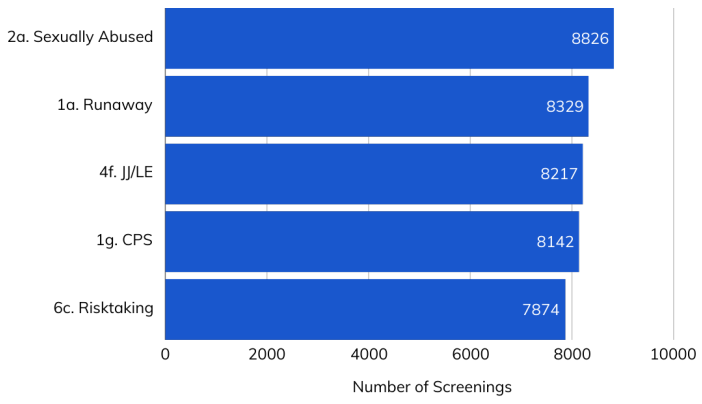


Figure 31: Top five indicators of Clear Concern among females

Finally, irregular school attendance is among the top five indicators for males, but it is not in the top five for females. One potential reason for this result is that it is also among the top five indicators in Texas JPDs which are doing the majority of screening of male youth. Nevertheless, it highlights the importance of screening vulnerable youth at preventative organizations such as schools and mental health agencies where the majority of the population served is not female.

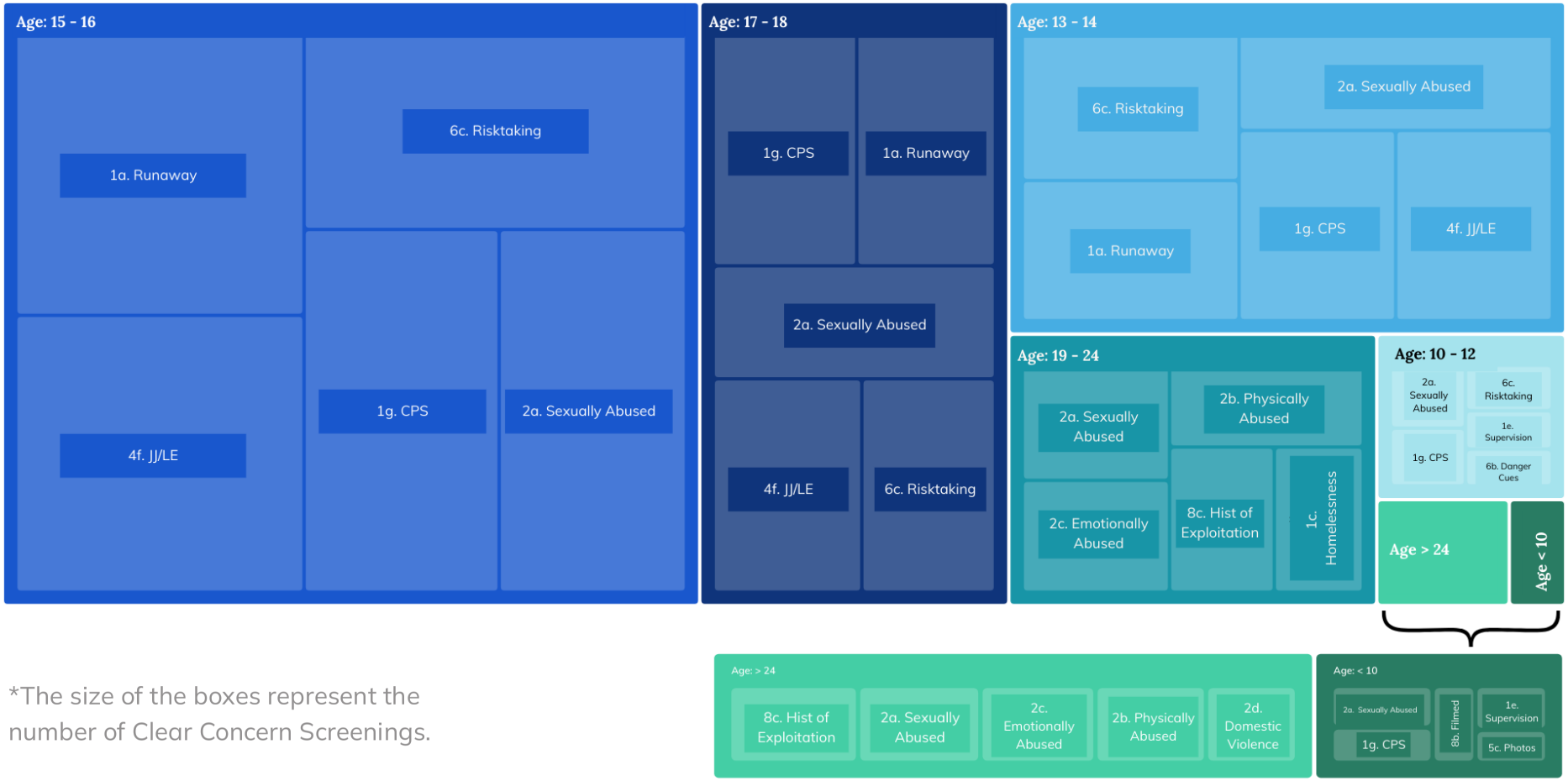
Last, we visualize the top five indicators of Clear Concern for different age groups. The top five indicators show significant variations between different age groups, most notably between minors and adults. It is important to note that, while the CSE-IT is validated for youth ages 10 through 24, many agencies use it to screen youth younger than 10 and adults over the age of 24.

For all adults (18+) who were screened by these agencies and scored Clear Concern, the indicators in Section 2 (prior abuse or trauma) and question 8c (history of exploitation) of the CSE-IT are the most prevalent indicators.

On the opposite end of the spectrum, among children under 10 years old who scored Clear Concern, question 8b (youth is watched, filmed or photographed in a sexually explicit manner) is the third most prevalent indicator with 48% (n=64) of Clear Concerns for this age group having this indicator. Question 2a (sexual abuse) is the most prevalent indicator of Clear Concern for those 10 and under with 55.4% (n=82) having this experience. Question 5c (explicit photos of youth are posted on the internet or on their phone) is the fifth most common indicator for youth 10 and under. In other words, for the youngest age group, sexually explicit filming and photos, as well as sexual abuse, are the most common indicators. Given that youth at this age are commonly trafficked by a family member, these may be common indicators of familial trafficking.

Interestingly, involvement in JJ/LE appears as a top indicator only for the age groups 13 to 18. On the other hand, both risk-taking behavior and CPS involvement is a top five indicator for all minors ages 10 to 18.

Figure 32: Top five indicators by age for Clear Concern Screenings*



*The size of the boxes represent the number of Clear Concern Screenings.

Zoomed-In View for Top 5 Indicators in Clear Concern Screenings for Ages below 10 and Ages above 25

Recommendations

Based on the key findings in this report, the following recommendations are proposed to improve the identification of trafficking victims, enhance the effectiveness of screening practices, and ensure that at-risk populations receive appropriate intervention and care.

1. Mandate universal screening

While the Preventing Sex Trafficking and Strengthening Families Act of 2014 and the Justice for Victims of Trafficking Act of 2015 required child welfare agencies to develop a system to identify, report, and support trafficked children in state care, not all states have mandated screening. We encourage all agencies serving vulnerable youth to implement universal screening and for legislatures to statutorily mandate it. For example, Texas DFPS has relatively low rates of screening, but they serve a high number of vulnerable youth. Universal screening of youth in their services over the age of ten would enable DFPS to identify and assist at-risk youth earlier.

Similarly, while rates of screening in school districts in Texas are also very low, screening data across ISDs highlights lower median age of clear concern in ISD screenings. Schools are often the only service provider a youth may be actively connected to during a period of exploitation. This suggests that ISDs play a critical role in early intervention and response to exploitation. Universal screening of vulnerable populations in schools would enable school staff to intervene earlier and connect them with essential support services to prevent exploitation.

Furthermore, universal screening would contribute to a richer data landscape. This data can be used to inform policy, resources, and service provision across agencies.

2. Standardize screening protocols

Even among states that are screening, efforts are disparate and inconsistent.[16] Consistent, widespread adoption of a validated indicator based screening tool would greatly benefit service provision. After the tool has been adopted, standardized screening protocols should guide agencies on who to screen and when to screen for trafficking. Standardized protocols bolster inter-agency collaboration by providing a shared framework and understanding around trafficking. Furthermore, it supports valid and reliable data collection and analysis.

16 Charm, S. C., Latzman, N. E., Gilot, B., & Dolan, M. (2022). Screening for Human Trafficking in Child Welfare Settings: Tools in Use. OPRE Report #2022-86. Office of Planning, Research, and Evaluation, Administration for Children and Families, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

The lack of standardized protocols likely leads to under-identification of victims and potentially ineffective service provision.

3. Implement widespread and standardized training

At the time of this report, screening in Louisiana is limited primarily to care coordination providers, one juvenile probation department, and a few service providers. This is due to challenges in external agencies accessing the training necessary to utilize the screening tool and therefore inhibits victim identification and data collection across the state. We recommend that training for screeners be widespread across all youth-serving organizations. Opening up training to child welfare agencies, juvenile probation departments, mental health facilities and schools would begin to lay the groundwork for increased identification and a more robust screening data landscape in Louisiana.

Furthermore, we recommend that the training be standardized and that it emphasizes several key items including: 1) the importance of thoroughly completing all sections of the CSE-IT tool to ensure accurate data and identification of the full spectrum of the nuanced risk factors; and 2) the importance of collecting all demographic data (age, race/ethnicity, gender identity, sexual orientation, and disability) across all agencies to ensure accurate analyses and intervention planning.

4. Prioritize interventions for high-risk demographics

Female youth are significantly more likely than male youth to screen Clear Concern. Therefore, ongoing screening among vulnerable females is critical. Given the heightened likelihood of Clear Concern among LGBTQ+ youth, we recommend enhancing services tailored to the needs of these youth who are more likely to face issues such as family rejection, homelessness, and polyvictimization. We also recommend increasing targeted support for youth with disabilities due to their higher rates of Clear Concern compared to their peers without disabilities. Finally, these results underscore the importance of collecting this type of demographic information when screening as it is currently optional.

5. Increase identification of underrepresented populations

The vast majority of screenings of male youth come from juvenile probation department screenings. While more males are screened in these departments, females are disproportionately screened as Clear Concern for trafficking. There is a significant gap both in the screening of male youth across organizations and in rates of identification. First, we recommend that more organizations prioritize screening male youth which would happen if there was mandated universal screening. Second, we recommend an assessment of the CSE-IT to evaluate whether the indicators are appropriately inclusive to be able to identify Clear Concern among male identifying youth.

While it has been documented that individuals living with disabilities are at disproportionate risk for trafficking, many organizations that are screening are not providing any information on disability. Those that are completing this information are often unaware of the youth's disability status. It is possible that the reason is that individuals completing the screening are not familiar with the youth's medical or mental health history. Therefore, one way to increase identification among youth with

disabilities is for more mental health and medical providers to incorporate screening of youth in their services.

Finally, we recommend developing outreach materials and public awareness campaigns targeting diverse racial, ethnic, and gender identities that emphasize the hidden nature of trafficking. Inclusive outreach materials, public awareness campaigns and interventions will support diverse populations and their range of needs and vulnerabilities.

6. Tailor screening and intervention for targeted age groups

The results show that youth under 10 have different indicators than other age groups. Early intervention for this age group should focus on sexual abuse, child sexual abuse material, and familial trafficking through increased awareness and prevention efforts among caregivers and educators.

Youth ages 13 to 18 show high levels of juvenile justice and CPS involvement, as well as risk-taking behavior. Strengthening interventions for this group requires examining certain vulnerabilities associated with system-involved youth.

Young adults ages 18 to 24 show prolonged indicators of past trauma such as sexual abuse and exploitation. This suggests a need for continuity of care as they transition out of youth services.

7. Leverage risk indicator insights

The results of the CSE-IT indicators reveal top indicators of concern overall, as well as differences among agencies and age groups. Service providers and other stakeholders should use the most prevalent risk indicators to refine prevention and intervention strategies across all agency types. Further, intervention strategies should be tailored based on agency-specific risk indicators. For example, JPDs may focus on runaways while CACs might focus on those with CPS involvement.

8. Expand data-driven collaboration

We recommend greater inter-agency coordination to share best practices and address disparities in screening and services across agencies and across states. We further recommend using tools like Lighthouse for real-time data visualization, trend analysis, emerging patterns, and gaps in service.

By implementing these recommendations, agencies can more effectively identify trafficking victims, address systemic barriers, and tailor interventions to the unique needs of vulnerable populations. These efforts will protect youth, enhance data-driven responses, and build a more effective safety net for trafficking prevention.

Appendix A

TABLE 1: DIFFERENCE IN PROPORTIONS TEST (TWO PROPORTION Z TEST) BETWEEN RACE/ETHNICITY PROPORTION FOR CLEAR CONCERN SCREENINGS BY ORGANIZATION TYPE AND RACE/ETHNICITY PROPORTION FOR ALL SCREENINGS BY ORGANIZATION TYPE IN TEXAS

ORGANIZATION TYPE	RACE / ETHNICITY	RACE/ETHNICITY PERCENTAGE WITHIN CLEAR CONCERNS FOR ORGANIZATION TYPE*	RACE/ETHNICITY PERCENTAGE WITHIN ALL SCREENINGS FOR ORGANIZATION TYPE*	Z-STATISTIC*	P-VALUE*
JPD-TX	Black	28.50	27.02	2.33	0.01
JPD-TX	White	21.74	19.04	4.80	1.52
JPD-TX	Hispanic	42.80	45.11	-3.25	0.00
JPD-TX	Other	0.65	0.86	-1.60	0.10
JPD-TX	Unknown	6.27	7.96	-4.39	1.13
DFPS	Black	42.90	36.88	3.60	0.00
DFPS	White	19.52	18.06	1.09	0.27
DFPS	Hispanic	26.74	36.37	-5.93	2.92
DFPS	Other	10.75	8.66	2.10	0.03
DFPS	Unknown	0.08	0.03	0.69	0.48
CAC -TX	Black	10.90	6.70	7.03	1.98
CAC -TX	White	28.32	18.96	10.09	0.00
CAC -TX	Hispanic	32.90	55.59	-19.55	0.00
CAC -TX	Other	2.40	1.70	2.28	0.02
CAC -TX	Unknown	25.48	16.83	9.75	0.00
CSEY	Black	26.15	24.35	2.42	0.01
CSEY	White	18.67	22.05	-4.86	1.13

ORGANIZATION TYPE	RACE / ETHNICITY	RACE/ETHNICITY PERCENTAGE WITHIN CLEAR CONCERNS FOR ORGANIZATION TYPE*	RACE/ETHNICITY PERCENTAGE WITHIN ALL SCREENINGS FOR ORGANIZATION TYPE*	Z-STATISTIC*	P-VALUE*
CSEY	Hispanic	30.57	31.18	-0.76	0.44
CSEY	Other	6.49	7.18	-1.58	0.11
CSEY	Unknown	18.10	15.25	4.48	7.18
ISD	Black	35.71	24.24	1.65	0.09
ISD	White	19.05	30.52	-1.56	0.11
ISD	Hispanic	35.71	39.14	-0.43	0.66
ISD	Other	2.38	4.86	-0.73	0.46
ISD	Unknown	7.14	0.90	3.39	0.00
NRDSA	Black	28.19	23.59	4.17	3.03
NRDSA	White	21.78	16.39	5.54	2.87
NRDSA	Hispanic	36.49	48.44	-9.32	0.00
NRDSA	Other	10.02	5.40	7.48	7.39
NRDSA	Unknown	3.53	6.19	-4.44	8.83
RDSA	Black	26.61	27.82	-0.60	0.54
RDSA	White	34.21	34.46	-0.11	0.90
RDSA	Hispanic	26.89	27.08	-0.09	0.92
RDSA	Other	10.09	8.66	1.10	0.26
RDSA	Unknown	2.20	1.96	0.37	0.70

* All numbers are rounded to the nearest second decimal point.

TABLE 2: DIFFERENCE IN PROPORTIONS TEST BETWEEN RACE/ETHNICITY PROPORTION FOR CLEAR CONCERN SCREENINGS BY ORGANIZATION TYPE AND RACE/ETHNICITY PROPORTION FOR ALL SCREENINGS BY ORGANIZATION TYPE IN LOUISIANA

ORGANIZATION TYPE	RACE / ETHNICITY	RACE/ETHNICITY PERCENTAGE WITHIN CLEAR CONCERNS FOR ORGANIZATION TYPE*	RACE/ETHNICITY PERCENTAGE WITHIN ALL SCREENINGS FOR ORGANIZATION TYPE*	Z-STATISTIC*	P-VALUE*
JPD - LA	Black	57.93	51.42	1.40	0.16
JPD - LA	White	37.29	39.48	-0.48	0.63
JPD - LA	Hispanic	0.85	3.65	-3.05	0.00
JPD - LA	Other	4.23	4.13	0.05	0.96
JPD - LA	Unknown	0.00	1.30	-5.94	0.00
CAC - TX	Black	38.9	40.10	-0.71	0.48
CAC - TX	White	45.00	45.75	-0.43	0.67
CAC - TX	Hispanic	8.87	5.78	3.24	0.00
CAC - TX	Other	4.10	3.76	0.50	0.62
CAC - TX	Unknown	3.15	4.62	-2.31	0.02

* All numbers are rounded to the nearest second decimal point.

Appendix B

CSE-IT Screening Tool (starting on the next page)

WestCoast Children's Clinic

Commercial Sexual Exploitation Identification Tool (CSE-IT) – version 2.0

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 = *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 1**	**Clear Concern 2**
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 8 = *Clear Concern*. **Circle score here→**	**0**	**No Concern 0**	**Possible Concern 1**	**Clear Concern 2**
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 1**	**Clear Concern 2**
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. Gang affiliation or contact involves youth in 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**
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 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 1**	**Clear Concern 2**
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 1**	**Clear Concern 2**
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 = *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 2**
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 Instructions:

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

Continuum of Concern

(draw a line indicating level of concern for exploitation)