



WASHINGTON STATE
Department of
Children, Youth, and Families

Identifying and Supporting Commercially Sexually Exploited Children (CSEC)

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Federal Definition: Human Trafficking

Human Trafficking: 18 U.S.C. § 1591 makes it illegal to recruit, harbor, transport, provision, obtain, *patronize, or solicit* a person or to benefit from such activities knowing that the person will be caused to engage in commercial sex acts **where the person is under 18 or where force, fraud or coercion exists**. This statute does not require that either the defendant or the victim actually travel.

Commercial sex act means any sex act on account of which *anything of value* is given to or received by any person. This includes:

Prostitution

Exotic dancing/stripping

Erotic/nude massage

Pornography

“Survival sex”

Sex tourism

Internet based

Phone sex lines

Gang based prostitution

Justice for Trafficking Victims Protection Act



WA State Definition: CSAM

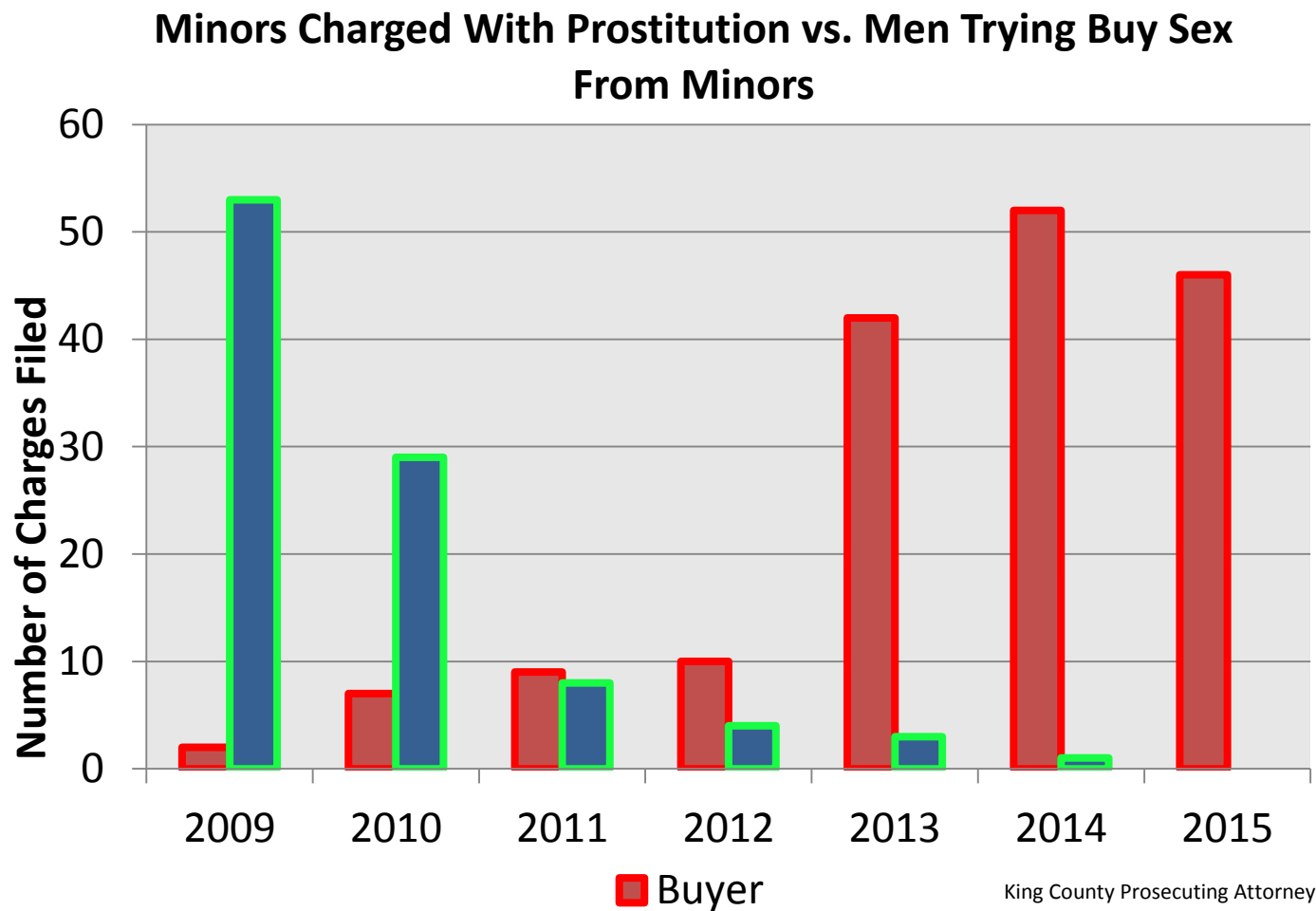
Commercial Sexual Abuse of a Minor (CSAM)

**RCW 9.68A.100: Commercial sexual abuse of a minor —
Consent of minor does not constitute defense.**

- (1) A person is guilty of commercial sexual abuse of a minor if:
 - (a) He or she pays a fee to a minor or a third person as compensation for a minor having engaged in sexual conduct with him or her;
 - (b) He or she pays or agrees to pay a fee to a minor or a third person pursuant to an understanding that in return therefore such minor will engage in sexual conduct with him or her; or
 - (c) He or she solicits, offers, or requests to engage in sexual conduct with a minor in return for a fee
- (2) Commercial sexual abuse of a minor is a class B felony punishable under chapter [9A.20](#) RCW.



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Introduction

<https://thelifestory.org/>



Language Frames the Issue

- Prostitution
- Underage/Teen Prostitution
- Prostituted Youth/Children
- Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children (CSEC)
- Domestic Minor Sex Trafficking (DMST)
- Commercial Sexual Abuse of Children (CSAM)
- Sex Servitude/Slavery
- Sex Work
- Sexual Exploitation of Youth/Young Adults
- “The Life” or “The Game”



Landscape of Exploitation

- Pimps/3rd party trafficker (can be any gender)
- Gang-based
- Family-based
- “Survival Sex”
- “Street family”
- Self-managed, Independent, Renegading
- Peer to peer
- Exploitation through other forms of the sex trades



Sexual Exploitation Affects:

- All genders
- Any economic class
- Any race
- Any education level

But...

...disproportionately affects financially poor youth, immigrant youth, LGBTQ+ youth, and youth of color.



Identifying CSEC – Red Flags!

- Chronic truant/runaway/homeless/gang-involved youth
- Excess amount of cash
- Hotel room keys
- Having goods or services that they cannot pay for
- Lying about age/false identification; inconsistencies
- Dramatic personality changes, evasive behavior especially around a “new boyfriend/girlfriend” or older group of friends
- Carries multiple cell phones



Child Welfare and CSEC

- The Administration on Children, Youth and Families, (ACYF), within the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Administration for Children and Families, (ACF), cited a number of statistics in a 2013 document, including several studies showing that **50% to more than 90% of children and youth victims of child sex trafficking had been involved with child welfare services (ACYF, 2013)*.**
- **60% of runaways who are victims of sex trafficking had been in the custody of social services or in foster care (Ryan, 2013)*.**



Public Law 113–183

“Preventing Sex Trafficking and Strengthening Families Act” Enacted September 2014

- Phased in over three years beginning in September 2015
- Directs CA to identify, document and assess for services:
 - Any child we “have reasonable cause to believe” is a sex trafficking victim
AND
 - Is in our care or for whom we have an open file
- Directs CA to report identified CSEC cases to law enforcement within 24 hours
- Directs CA to report findings into AFCARS (via Famlink)



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Foster Care

<https://thelifestory.org/>



Emerging Practices in Child Welfare

	Washington	Arizona	California	Connecticut
1. State or county administrated?	State	State	County	State
2. Tracking CSEC cases in internal data system?	Yes	Yes	Yes, improvements being made though	Yes
3. CSEC screening tool developed and implemented?	Yes	Not in addition to internal data system	Yes, but county by county- 34 of 58 counties using one standard screener	Yes
4. CSEC training for staff?	Yes	Some	Varies -Administered county by county	Yes
5. Opening cases for non-familial/caregiver CSE allegations?	No	No	Allowed- can vary county by county	Yes
6. CSEC specific placements for dependent youth?	development-foster model	development-residential model	NGO placements available and state funded therapeutic residential model in development	Varied
7. CSEC specific investigations/services staff/units?	No	No	County by county - can use state CSEC funds for these positions	Yes



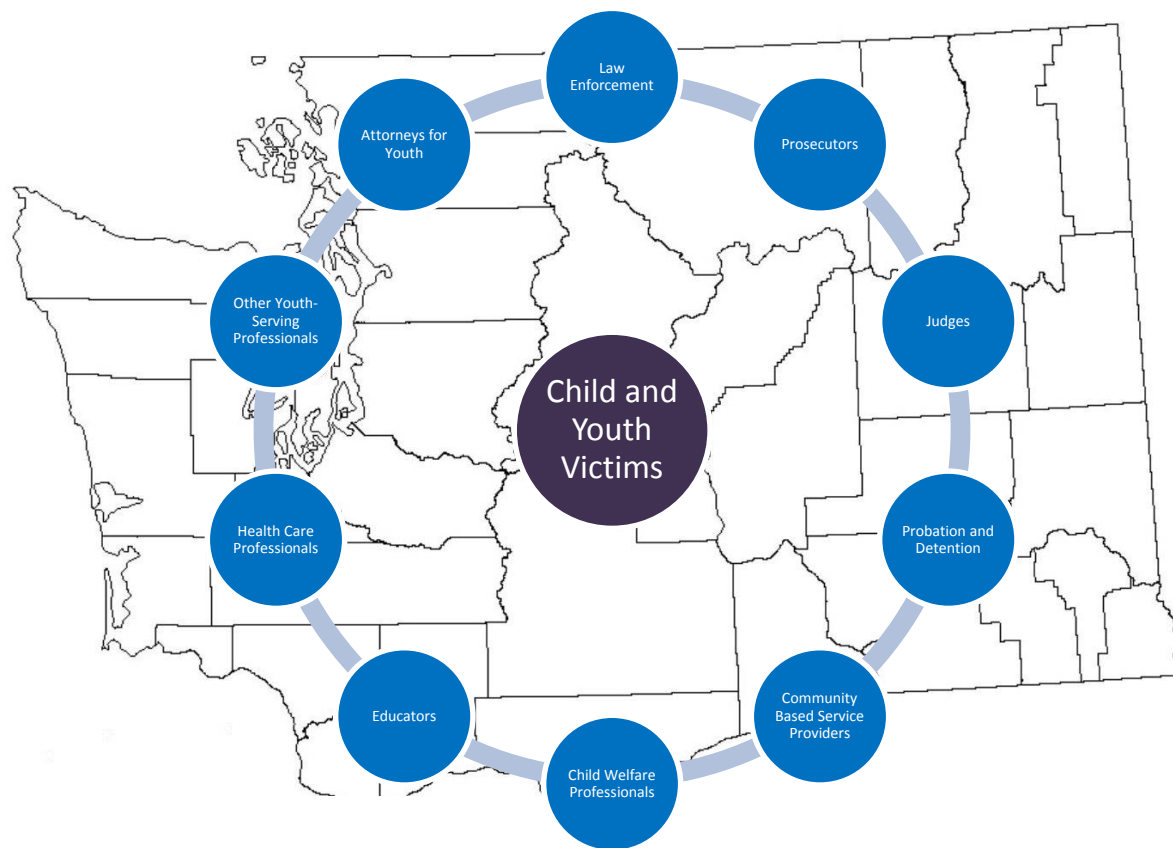
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Law Enforcement

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Goal: Build a Statewide, Coordinated, Collaborative, & Victim-Centered Response to the Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children.





2011: There were dedicated professionals and an increasing recognition that exploited youth are victims, but...





Task Force
Development
and Support

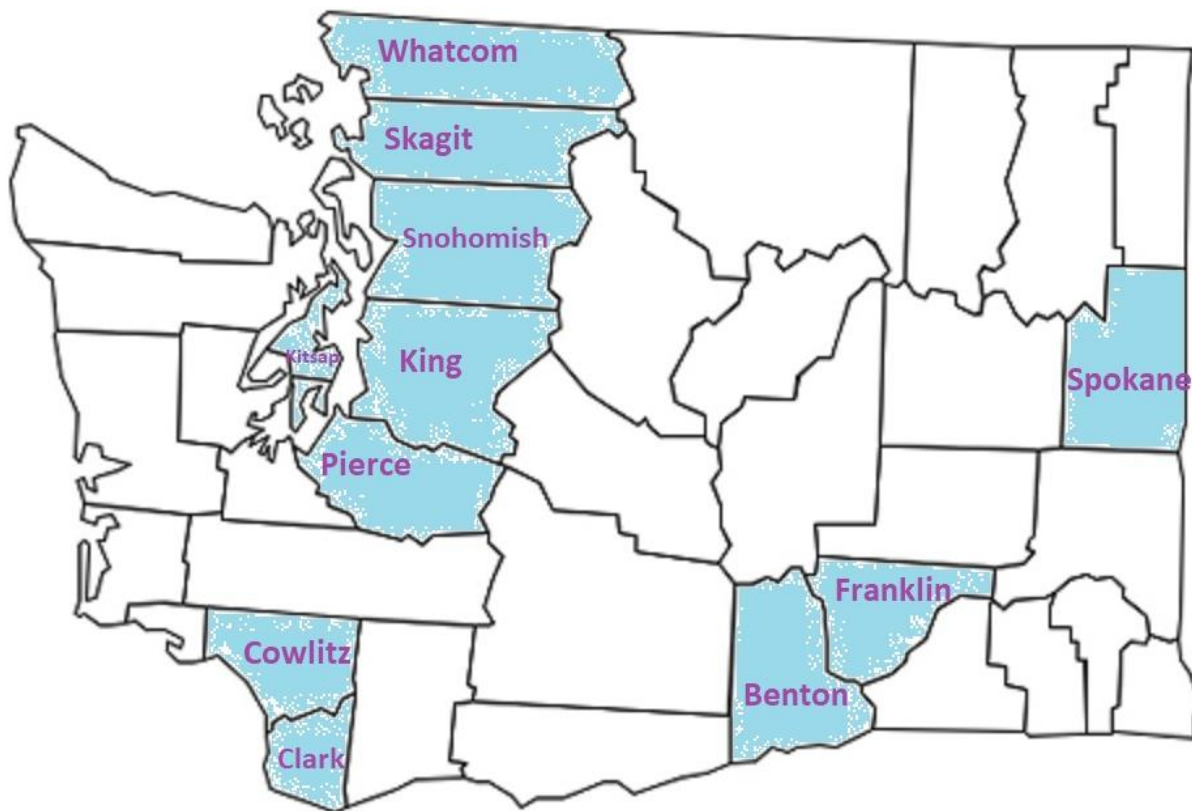
Training

Data
Collection

Statewide
Coordination
and Policy



Active CSEC Task Force Partnerships





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<https://www.wattraffickinghelp.org/>



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