



RESPONDING TO SEXUAL EXPLOITATION AND TRAFFICKING OF YOUTH

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FEDERAL DEFINITION: SEX TRAFFICKING

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

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

MINOR + COMMERCIAL SEX ACT= TRAFFICKING



WA STATE DEFINITION: CSAM

Commercial Sexual Abuse of a Minor (CSAM) is when a person solicits, offers, requests to engage, or **provides anything of value** to a minor or a third person as compensation for a minor having engaged in sexual conduct with him or her. (RCW 9.68A.100)

Consent of a minor to the sexual act does not constitute a defense to this offense.



PREVALENCE

There are currently no reliable national-level prevalence numbers.

This is due to the hidden nature of trafficking,
that has only recently received attention and resources,
and the shifting trends in the sex trades.

Existing resources and research:

- National Network 4 Youth (NN4Y) estimates that 19% to 40% of homeless youth experience sex and/or labor trafficking equating to about 800,000 youth and young adults experiencing sex and/or labor trafficking annually.
- National Center for Missing and Exploited Children (NCMEC) suggest that of the more than 23,500 endangered runaways reported to NCMEC in 2018, **one in seven** were likely victims of child sex trafficking.



WHO IS AFFECTED



Sexual Exploitation and Trafficking Affects Every:

Community

Race

Gender

Sexual Orientation

Education Level

Economic Class

However, sexual exploitation **DISPROPORTIONATELY** affects young people experiencing poverty, homelessness and discrimination; particularly youth of color, LGBTQ2I youth, and youth in foster care systems



CSEC BREAKDOWN BY GENDER

Gender Breakdown Among Minors Reporting CSE

Sample Size	Male	Females	Transgender	Year	Ages	Location	Author
949 youth who self-reported that they have had sex for money	36%	60%	5% (4% trans female, 1% trans male)	2016	13-24	Atlantic City, Bay Area, Chicago, Dallas, Miami, Las Vegas	Swaner, et al.
249 youth who self-reported participating in CSEC markets	45%	48%	8%	2008	Under 18	New York City	Curtis, et al.

Nationally Representative Literature Regarding CSEC by Gender (Self-reported)

Sample Size	Overall	Males	Females	Year	Ages	Location	Author
13,294 American	3.5%	67.1%	32.1%	2008	7 th – 12 th Grade	Nationally Representative	Edwards, Iritani & Hallfors

LANDSCAPE OF EXPLOITATION



Exploitation is often coordinated through the internet using commercial sex websites, social media and/or dating websites.

Some exploitation still occurs on street "tracks", in businesses and/or through familial/social networks.



RECRUITMENT PROCESS

Recruitment

- Lures of love, affection, money, safety, protection and family
- Recruiters/exploiters ask specific questions to identify youth who are vulnerable, have weak familial connections, and/or have unmet needs

Grooming

- Seasoning happens through sexual abuse/assault including any sex that violates boundaries or consent, or pornography of such acts
- “Partying”; getting hair and nails done, new clothes
- Break down and rebuilding of identity; made to feel special and included; adoption of street names

“Turning Out”

- The point at which a youth “turns their first trick”



RED FLAGS!

Chronically truant/runaway/homeless/gang-involved youth

Multiple cell phones

Excess amount of cash

Having expensive or consistent goods or services with no known means to pay for them

Hotel room key/keycards

Signs of branding (tattoos, jewelry)

Dramatic personality changes including evasive behavior around a new romantic partner or new group of friends

Lack of knowledge of a given community or location

Having multiple kinds of condoms, lube, wet wipes, sex toys



RECRUITING BEHAVIORS

Talking in ways that sound like “selling the dream”:

- talking about money or getting “taken care of”
- “partying”, getting hair/nails done, shopping

Potential involvement/connection to people in gangs/street families

Older/more mature youth befriend younger/impressionable youth

Dominant personalities

Excessive loyalty or devotion

Flashing money or status symbols

Attempting to isolate vulnerable youth, secretive



IDENTIFICATION

Ask specific questions during intake to screen for risk factors or involvement.

Track and support youth that are chronically running away and/or truant.

Consider significant behavior change especially if youth becomes secretive or has new “older” friends or a new partner

Ask about STI's, pregnancy, unexplained injuries and/or hyper-sexualized behavior such as offer sex in exchange for money or goods

Observe communication patterns in school, clinics, drop-in or street outreach settings; who talks to who? Who seems to be in charge socially?



ASKING THE QUESTION

Screening or Intake Question:

"Sometimes people trade sex for money or things they need to survive, is that going on in your life? Or, is that going on around you?"

Follow-up Prompt:

"I will not judge you or anything you tell me. I'm here if you ever want to talk or want support. We can focus on whatever would be most helpful for you."



WA STATE: MANDATORY REPORTING

The Washington State Legislature's (RCW 26.44.020) definition of child abuse and neglect **includes sexual exploitation** and domestic minor sex trafficking.

Victims are considered abused or neglected for the purposes of Washington law and can receive a child protective response and CPS **may intervene** in the life of any child, under the age of 18 who is being sexually exploited **by any adult— familial or non-familial**.



MANDATORY REPORTING CONSIDERATIONS

Mandatory reporting processes may vary depending on the staff's position or role within their agency.

Each organization/agency should develop clear guidelines and expectations regarding reporting of (suspected) trafficking cases.

When making a report individuals minimally need to provide:

- Name and date of birth
 - Circumstances of suspected trafficking
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CCYJ's Project Respect

Building and sustaining a statewide, collaborative, coordinated, and victim/survivor-centered response to CSEC in Washington

Laura Nagel
Program Coordinator

CCYJ Overview



Empowering Foster and Homeless Youth

Building pathways to education, housing, and employment for foster and homeless youth



Keeping Kids in School

Activating education and justice communities to support youth in crisis



Reducing Gang Violence

Uniting partners to redirect gang-involved youth and get them on a positive path



Stabilizing Families

Combining legal, parent, and social services to strengthen King County families



Supporting LGBTQ Youth

Building capacity for foster care and juvenile courts to provide safe, affirming support

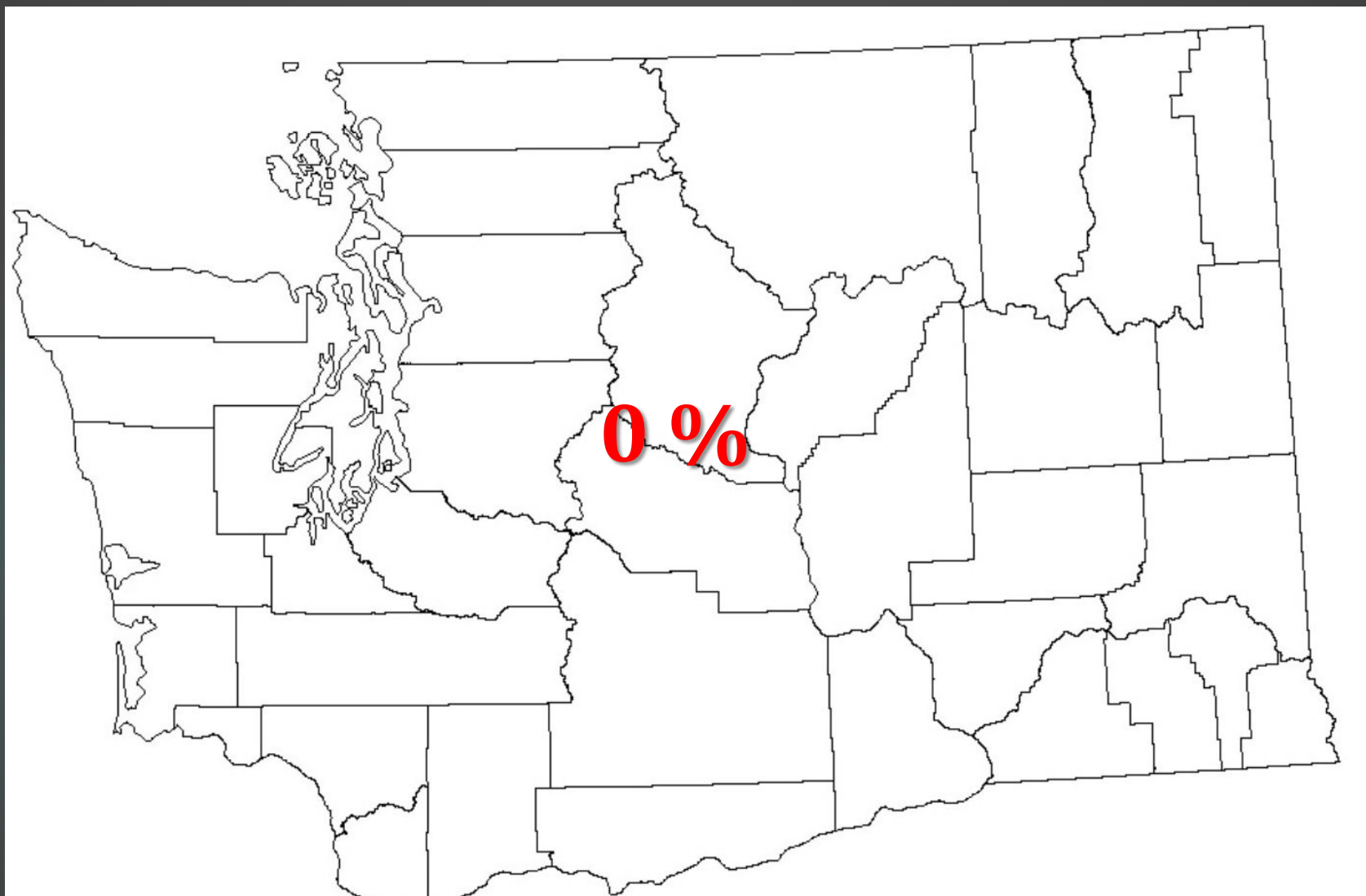


Combating Child Sexual Exploitation

Connecting sexually exploited children to resources and advocacy



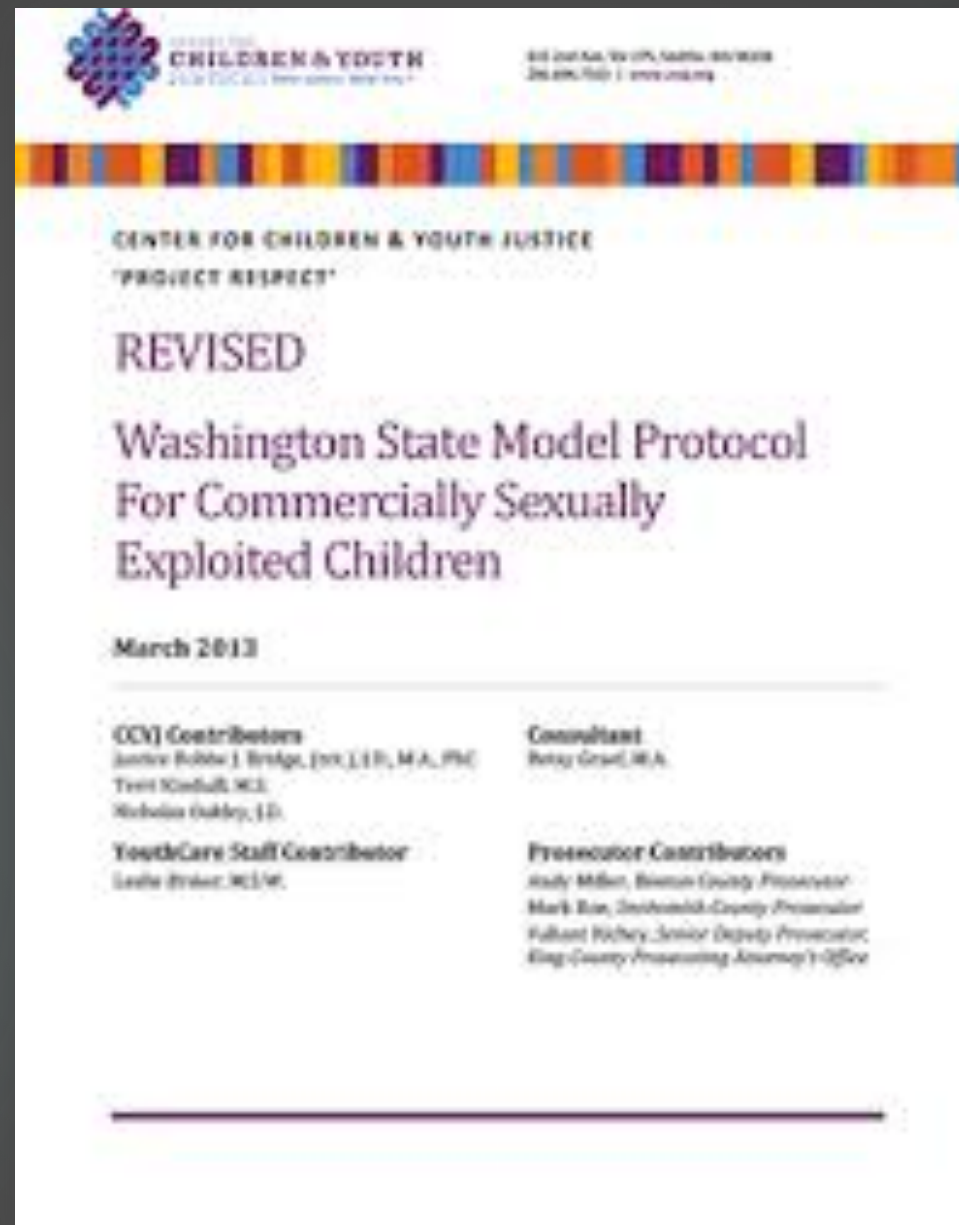
WA's Coordinated Response to CSEC as of 2011



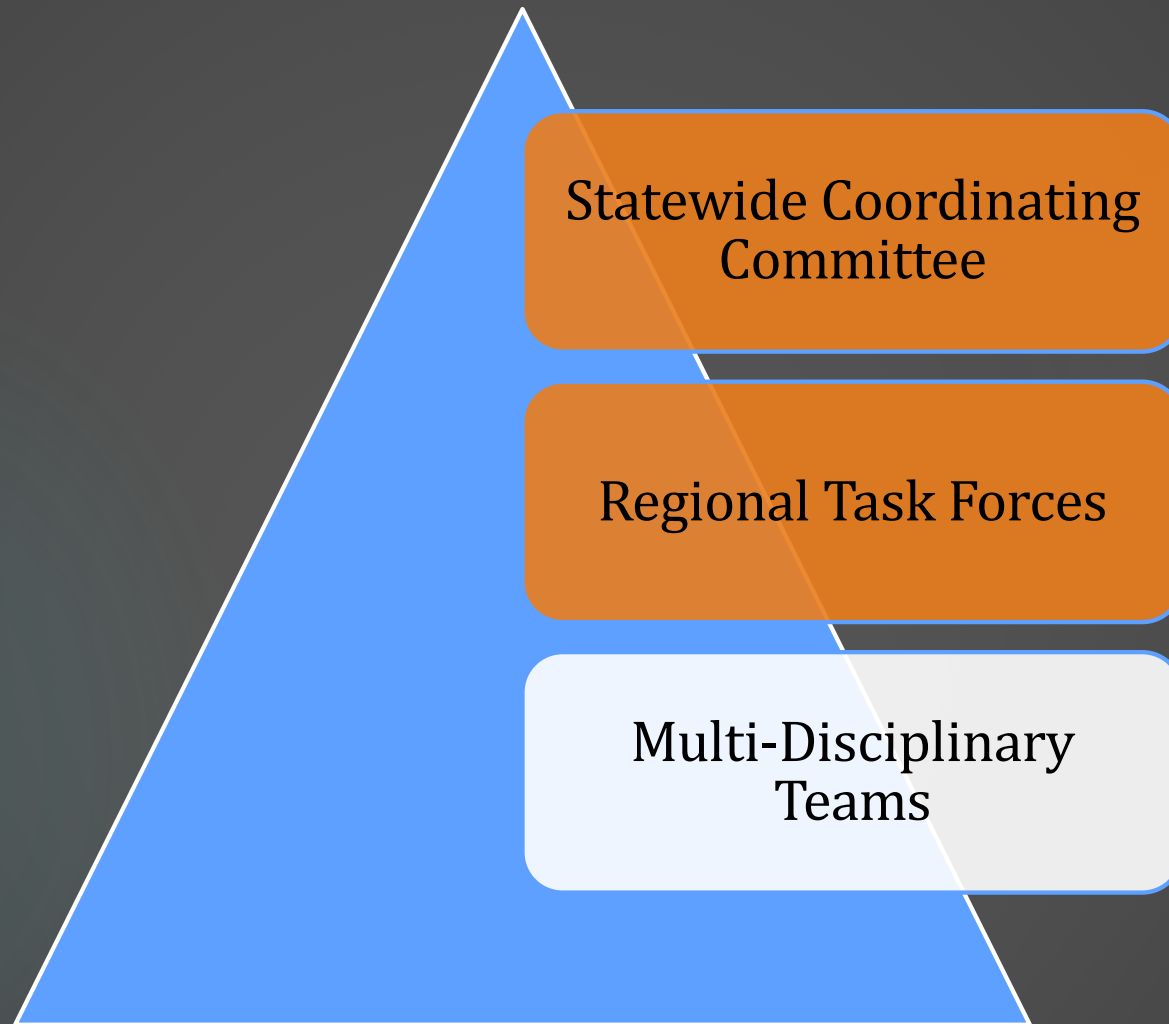
The Result



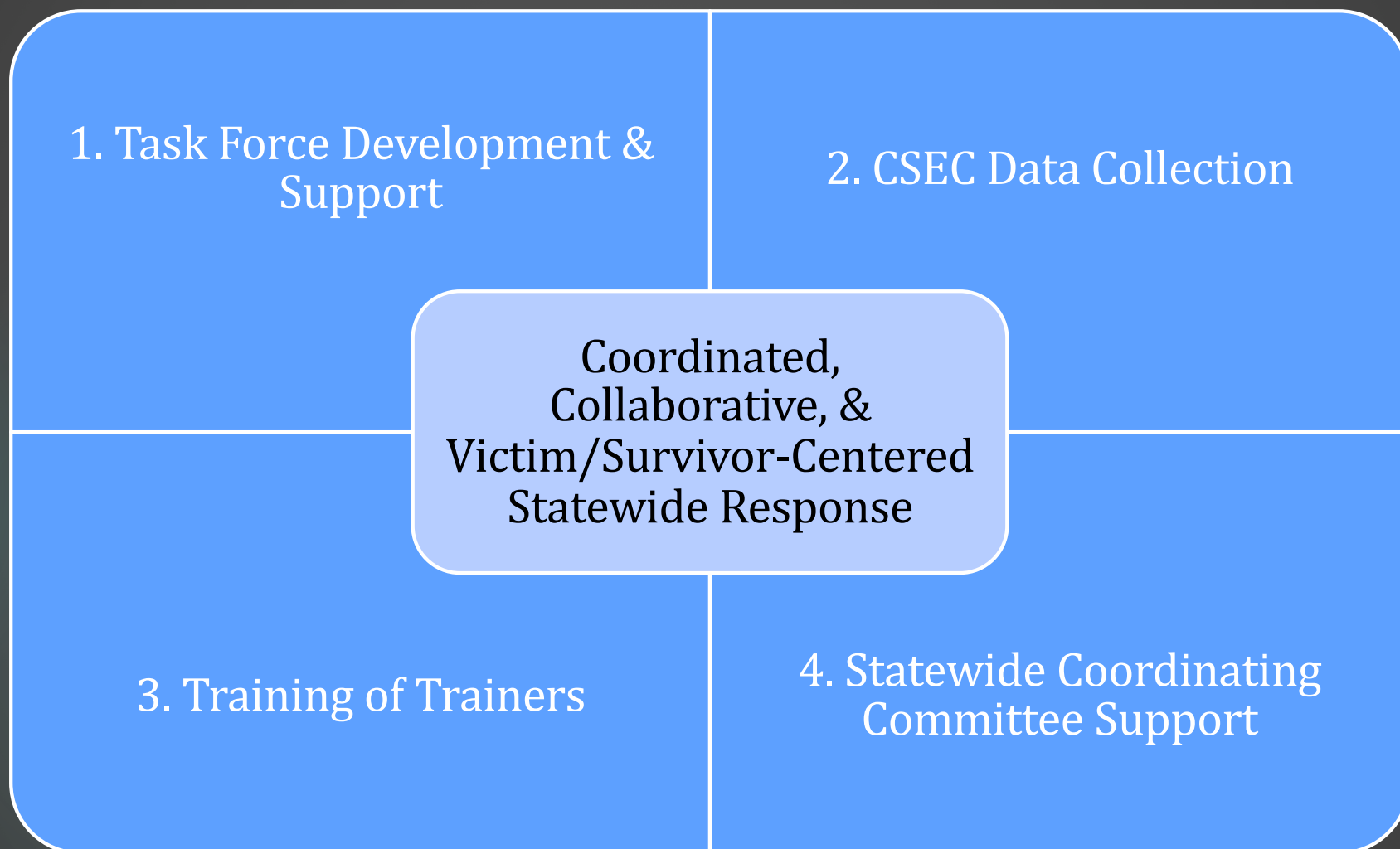
The *Model* Protocol



Structure



Four Focus Areas



2. CSEC Data Collection

- ▶ Referral Points, modeled after the Bridge Collaborative data collection
- ▶ Piloting 3-5 sites
- ▶ Launching early 2020

3. CSEC Training of Trainers

- ▶ Developed primarily by Leslie Briner, MSW at YouthCare
- ▶ 5 days
- ▶ Application process
- ▶ Approx. 120 certified trainers in the state

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4. Statewide Coordinating Committee

Oversee and review implementation of the Model Protocol

Monitor coordinated response

Review recommendations from regional entities

Making recommendations regarding policy and legislative changes

Oversee data collection

Review understanding and implementation of WA's 2010 Safe Harbors Law

Thank you!

Watraffickinghelp.org

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