Westcoast Children's Clinic

Commercial Sexual Exploitation-Identification Tool (CSE-IT)
Frequently Asked Questions

How is the CSE-IT structured?

- The CSE-IT includes items that research has shown to be correlated with exploitation, or that were identified by practitioners and survivors as being important indicators.
- The tool consists of key indicators, with supporting statements to help users assess whether a youth is showing signs of being exploited.
- The supporting statements minimize subjectivity when identifying exploited youth and help practitioners familiarize themselves with what to look for so they can screen youth consistently.
- Once providers become fluent in using the CSE-IT, they are able to quickly score the key indicators.
- The final score on the CSE-IT indicates the level of concern regarding a youth's potential involvement in exploitation and if further action is warranted.

How do I gather information to complete the CSE-IT?

- The tool is not meant to be a survey questionnaire and the items are not intended to be read directly to the youth as an interview.
- The CSE-IT is an information integration tool to be completed after the routine interviewing, screening, observation, or assessment processes that providers are already conducting at their organizations.
- The tool is for use by professionals who work directly with youth. These professionals already collect information needed to complete the CSE-IT by talking to the youth, observing the youth's appearance or behavior, gathering documents from other sources, and speaking with people involved in the youth's life (e.g., social workers, teachers, caregivers, etc.).

Who should screen and when?

- All youth age 10 and older should be screened, regardless of gender or other characteristic. Providers should not wait for suspicion of commercial sexual exploitation to screen. If younger youth are considered to be at high risk for exploitation for any reason, they should be screened.
- The CSE-IT can be used even if providers only meet with clients once. Survivors noted there were many missed opportunities during even brief encounters for service providers to notice the signs and intervene on their behalf.
- Screening can occur at different points in time, depending on the setting. WestCoast works with partners to determine when youth should be screened based on each agency's services and case flow. Generally, we recommend screening each youth within 30 days of intake, and again every 6 months to continually monitor for signs of exploitation.

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Does the CSE-IT have an evidence base?

- We validated the CSE-IT in 2016 to ensure that it accurately identifies youth who have clear indicators of exploitation. To collect the data needed to validate the CSE-IT, we piloted the tool in 56 agencies in 22 California counties.
- We also held debriefings with staff using the CSE-IT about what did and did not work, additional training needs, and how agency leadership used the information.
- Our validation included statistical analysis, qualitative methods, and comparison to existing data sources for sites where such information was available.
- As of August 2020, WestCoast has trained **over 10,000 service providers** to recognize the signs of exploitation. These providers have **screened around 110,000 youth** and **identified nearly 11,000 youth** with clear indicators of exploitation.

What do I need to do for my organization to begin using the CSE-IT?

- Decide what units or staff will use the tool, and at what point in time youth should be screened. WestCoast works with partners to develop a screening protocol.
- Secure agency leadership approval and discuss data sharing with WestCoast.
- Complete Memorandum of Understanding with WestCoast Children's Clinic.
- Designate a Site Coordinator to be the primary contact person for implementation and manage the data sharing with WestCoast.
- Have all staff who will be using the tool participate in the CSE-IT User Training.
- Select organizational leaders to participate in the Train-the-Trainer.
- See the implementation guide for more information: http://www.westcoastcc.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/09/WCC-CSE-IT-ImplementationGuide-FINAL.pdf

What training and technical assistance does WestCoast offer?

- In addition to helping partners develop a screening protocol, WestCoast provides ongoing consultation to address questions regarding implementation of the CSE-IT.
- WestCoast provides a CSE-IT user guide, which includes information on the indicators, questions to consider, and how to score the tool.
- Users (including supervisors and managers) attend a required 3-hour User Training that addresses:
    - **Using the CSE-IT** to identify youth with clear indicators of exploitation.
    - **The dynamics of exploitation** and how they relate to indicators on the CSE-IT.
    - **Engaging youth in a conversation** about sexual exploitation.

  The User Training is available in-person or online.
- WestCoast provides **Train-the-Trainer (T3)** sessions to ensure that ongoing screening and identification are sustainable within each agency implementing the CSE-IT. In the T3 sessions, trainers become familiar with the User Training materials, increase their understanding of exploitation, and prepare to address questions from other CSE-IT users. The T3 is only available in-person.
- Agencies are eligible for Train-the-Trainer after using the tool for at least 6 months. Discuss with WestCoast which staff are most appropriate for the T3.

How can our organization use the CSE-IT to understand the prevalence of trafficking among our clients?

- Agencies implementing the CSE-IT have three options for how to use the tool:
    - WestCoast's secure, online system
    - As a form in the agency's database or EHR
    - On paper

  We will discuss with you which option is best for your agency.
- Agencies that use WestCoast's secure online system have the option to request aggregated data reports, which summarize information about youth who have been screened, including how many youth have indicators of trafficking and their demographic characteristics. These reports are available at a small fee based on the size of your organization.
- Agencies using their own database or EHR should work with their database or EHR administrator to run reports on CSE-IT data.
- Agencies using the tool on paper should consider setting up a tracking system.