

Module 4: Working with Adolescent Victims in Cases of Youth-Produced Sexual Image(s): The Role of Technology and the Importance of a Trauma-Informed, Victim-Centered Approach

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Forensic Resilience Training Academy



1. Mitigating the Impact of Secondary Trauma (MIST): Theory & Practice for Self Preservation and Team Care
2. Trauma-informed Identification and Screening of Victims of HT & CSEC
3. Trauma-informed Response and Trauma-specific Services for Victims of HT & CSAM
4. Working with Adolescent Victims in Cases of Youth-Produced Sexual Image(s)
5. Specialized Forensic Training for Interviewing Victims of HT & CSEC
6. Developing a Trauma-Informed Community Response to HT & CSEC*

Before we begin, we'd like to let you know...



- This training session will be **recorded** (and why)
- We are **evaluating** this training (and why)
- Training sessions may include discussion of topics such as child sexual assault, physical violence, and emotional harm. We acknowledge the content may be difficult and encourage you to **care for your safety and well-being**.
- This project is **funded by** the OJJDP FY2021 - VOCA Children's Advocacy Centers National Subgrant Program - Domestic Trafficking Victims Funds (CFDA #16.834)
- After each training, you will receive a follow-up email with additional resources.
- At the end of the Academy, you will receive a resource guide.

Mindfulness

Remembering to be present in the full experience positive or negative



Meditation



Breath Work



Presence



Balance



Engagement



Introductions



Mary Beth Nelson



Ricky Lynn

Agenda



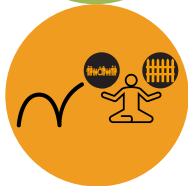
COMMUNITY MEETING: A Trauma-Informed Check-In



TERMINOLOGY: What are Youth-Produced Sexual Images?



TYOLOGIES: How are Youth-Produced Sexual Images Produced and Shared?



RESPONSE: Applying a Trauma-Informed Lens

TRC Model Tool #1



Community Meeting Practice



**How are you
feeling?**

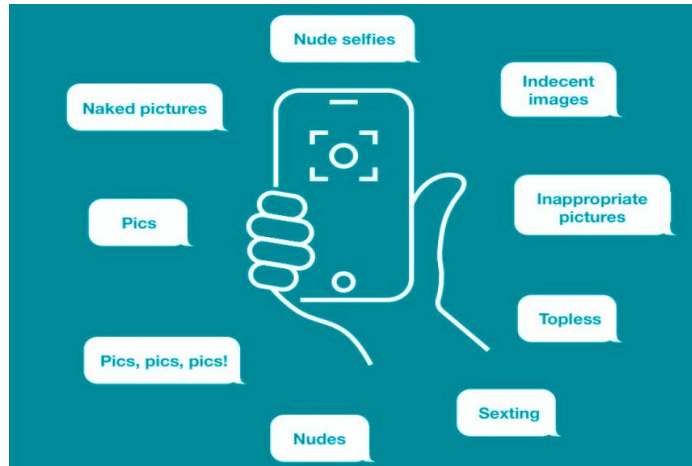
**What is your
goal?**

**Who can
support you?**



WHAT

What do we mean by “youth-produced” images?



TERMINOLOGY

- CSAM: Child Sexual Abuse Materials
- YPSI: Youth-Produced Sexual Images/Imagery
- Sexting
- Sextortion



WHY

Why does it occur?



HOW

How does it occur?





S.E.L.F. can help us process an issue by breaking down **SAFETY** concerns, **EMOTIONS** brought up, **LOSSes** experienced, & begins **FUTURE** planning.



Youth
produced
sexual images

Typologies

Police chief warns of 'sexually toxic environment'
after it is revealed kids as young as 11 are sending
naked selfies on mobile phones



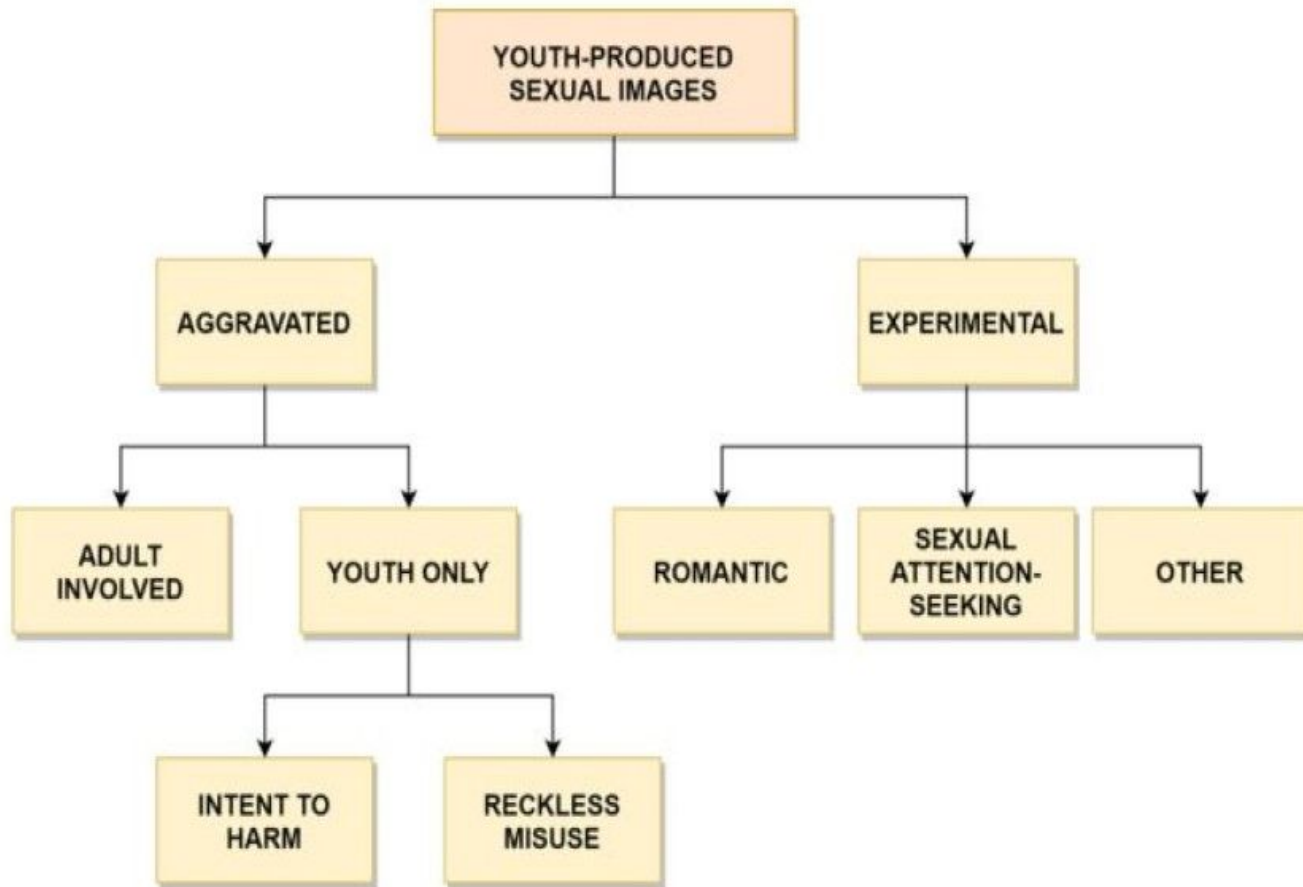
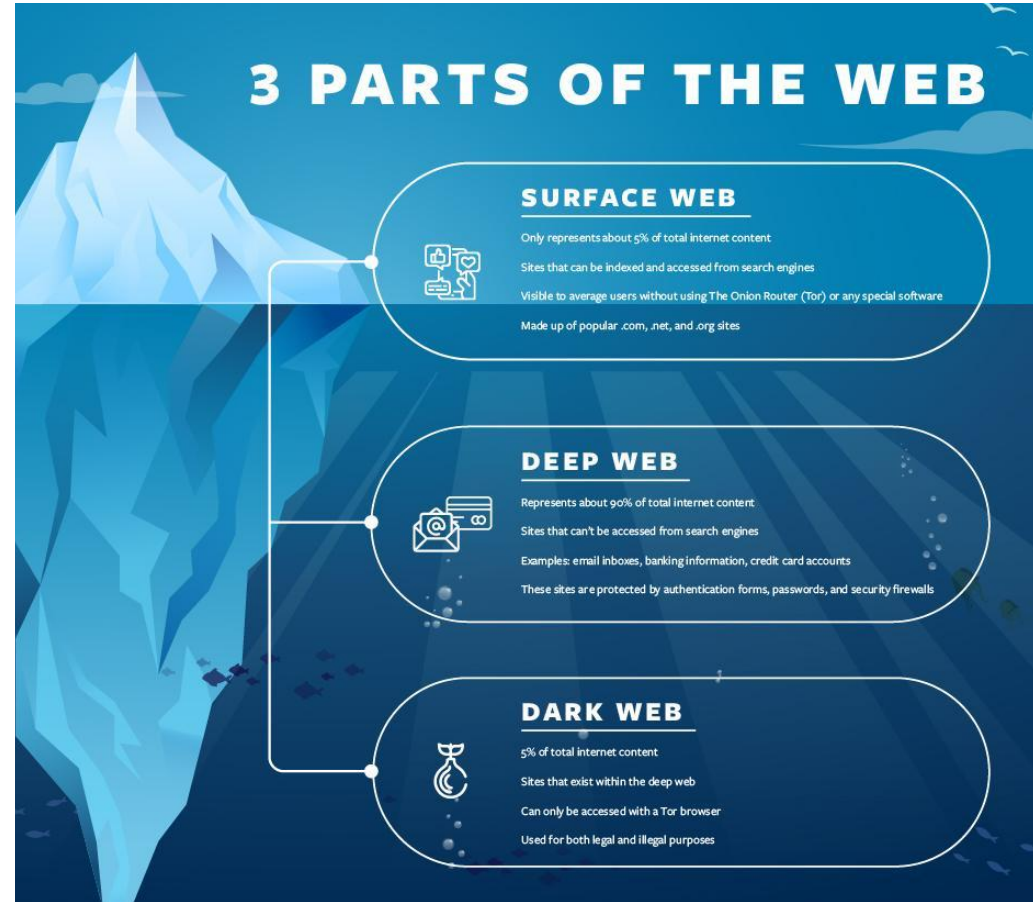


Fig 1: Sexting, a typology (Finkelhor and Wolak)

Ways Images are Shared

Technology-Driven Exploitation





One unforeseen consequence of the rise of the internet has been an explosion in the illicit trade of child sexual abuse images and videos.

**MORE THAN 29 MILLION REPORTS OF
SUSPECTED CHILD SEXUAL EXPLOITATION
ARE RECEIVED BY THE NATIONAL CENTER
FOR MISSING & EXPLOITED CHILDREN
ANNUALLY.**

[That's over 563,461 reports per week.]

Creation and Transmission of CSAM/YPSI

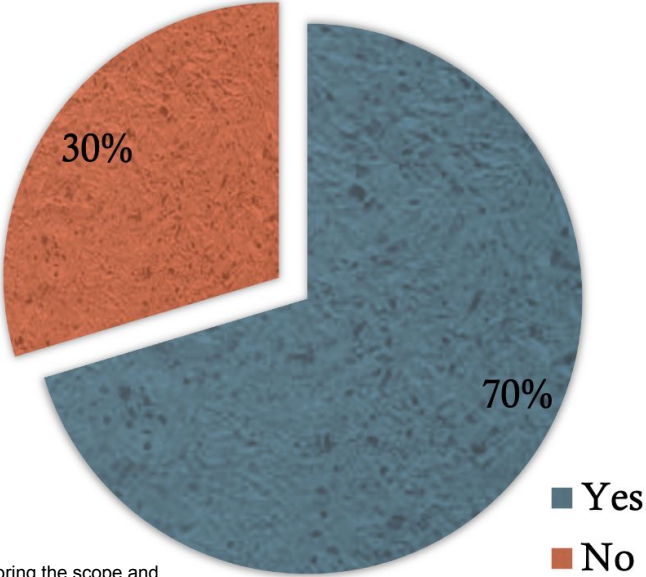
- The Dark Web
- TOR (The Onion Router)
- VPNs
- P2P sharing networks
- Message encryption

Use of Technology

When we look at how technology is used in these sex trafficking situations, here is what we find.



Use of technology for the purpose of the sex trafficking?



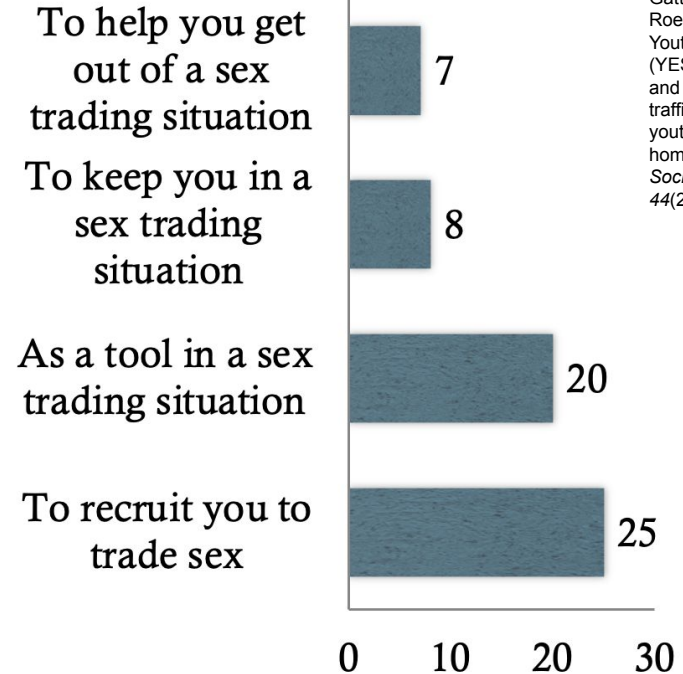
Source: Middleton, J., Gattis, M., Frey, L., & Roe-Sepowitz, D. (2018). Youth Experiences Survey (YES): Exploring the scope and complexity of sex trafficking in a sample of youth experiencing homelessness. *Journal of Social Service Research, 44*(2), 1-17.

Types of Technology

Were any of the following technological devices or means used to recruit you to trade sex, to keep you in the sex trading situation, or used as a tool in the sex trading situation?

Types of technology used in the sex trafficking situations (n=54)	#	%
Smartphone	19	35.2%
Backpage.com	16	29.6%
Facebook	12	22.2%
Snapchat	8	14.8%
Pornographic pictures	6	11.1%
Dating websites	5	9.3%
Craigslist.com	5	9.3%
Twitter	5	9.3%
Instagram	4	7.4%
Tumblr	2	3.7%
Paypal	2	3.7%
Bitcoin	2	3.7%
Tinder	1	1.9%

If you selected any of the above, how was this technology used?



Source: Middleton, J., Gattis, M., Frey, L., & Roe-Sepowitz, D. (2018). Youth Experiences Survey (YES): Exploring the scope and complexity of sex trafficking in a sample of youth experiencing homelessness. *Journal of Social Service Research*, 44(2), 1-17.

What are the Implications and Consequences of Youth-Produced Sexual Images?

What are the potential implications and impacts on the victim?



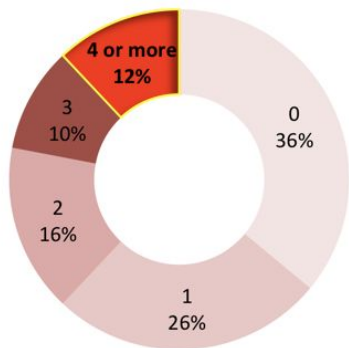
The Role of Trauma



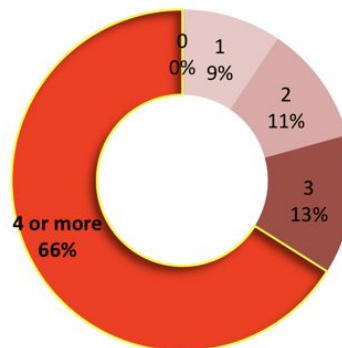
Comparison of ACEs Between Populations

Number of Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACE Score)	CDC-Kaiser ¹			YES Study ²		
	Women	Men	Overall	Women	Men	Overall
0	35%	38%	36%	0%	0%	0%
1	25%	28%	26%	5%	15%	9%
2	15%	16%	16%	7%	17%	11%
3	10%	9%	10%	12%	13%	13%
4 or more	15%	9%	12%	75%	55%	66%

CDC-Kaiser ACE Study¹
(N=17,337)



YES ACEs Study²
(N=104)



Sources:

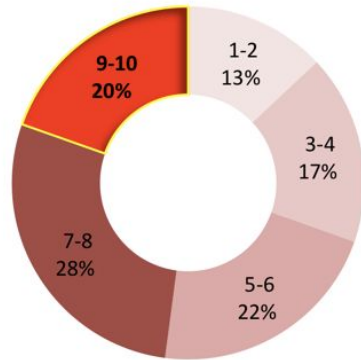
¹Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Kaiser Permanente. The ACE Study Survey Data. Atlanta, Georgia: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services; 2016.

²Youth Experiences Study, UoFL Human Trafficking Research Initiative, 2017

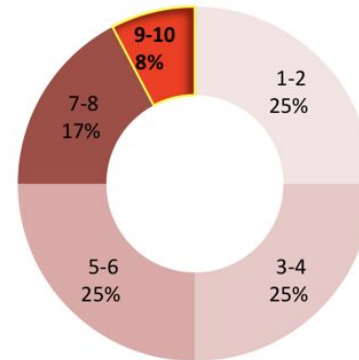
Comparison of ACEs Between Populations

Number of Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACE Score)	Sex Trafficked Youth			Non-Sex Trafficked Youth		
	Female	Male	Overall	Female	Male	Overall
1-2	14%	12%	13%	8%	44%	25%
3-4	18%	18%	17%	27%	20%	25%
5-6	21%	24%	22%	27%	24%	25%
7-8	21%	35%	28%	27%	8%	17%
9-10	25%	12%	20%	12%	4%	8%

**YES Study¹ - Trafficked Youth
(N=45)**



**YES Study¹ - Non-Trafficked Youth
(N=51)**



Source:

¹Youth Experiences Study, UofL Human Trafficking Research Initiative, 2017

Source: Middleton, J., Edwards, E., Roe-Sepowitz, D., Inman, N., Frey, L., & Gattis, M. (2022) Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) and Homelessness: A critical examination of the association between specific ACEs and sex trafficking among homeless youth in Kentuckiana. *International Journal of Human Trafficking*. DOI: [10.1080/23322705.2021.2020061](https://doi.org/10.1080/23322705.2021.2020061)

Suicide Risk

Approximately
4 times more
likely to report
suicidal
ideation

Approximately
5 times more
likely to
attempt suicide

Suicidal
ideation was
linked to the
use of
technology for
recruitment

The involvement
of technology
was associated
with 7.25 higher
odds of
experiencing
suicidal ideation

Source: Frey, L.M., Middleton, J., Gattis, M.N., & Fulginiti, A. (2018). Suicidal ideation and behavior among youth victims of sex trafficking in Kentuckiana. *Crisis*.

Statistics Related to Death by Suicide

- One study found that youth who had sexted were 5.27 times more likely to have attempted suicide and 3.37 times more likely to have contemplated suicide than those who had not sexted.
- Young adolescents who experienced cyberbullying had an increased risk of suicidal thoughts or attempts.
 - NIH-funded researchers used data from more than 10,000 young adolescents. Almost 9 percent of the young adolescents reported experiencing cyberbullying. The participants who reported experiences of cyberbullying were 4 times as likely to report thoughts of suicide and attempts.

Sources:

Dake, J. A., Price, J. H., Maziarz, L., & Ward, B. (2012). Prevalence and correlates of sexting behavior in adolescents. *American Journal of Sexuality Education*, 7(1), 1-15. Retrieved from <https://doi.org/10.1080/15546128.2012.650959>

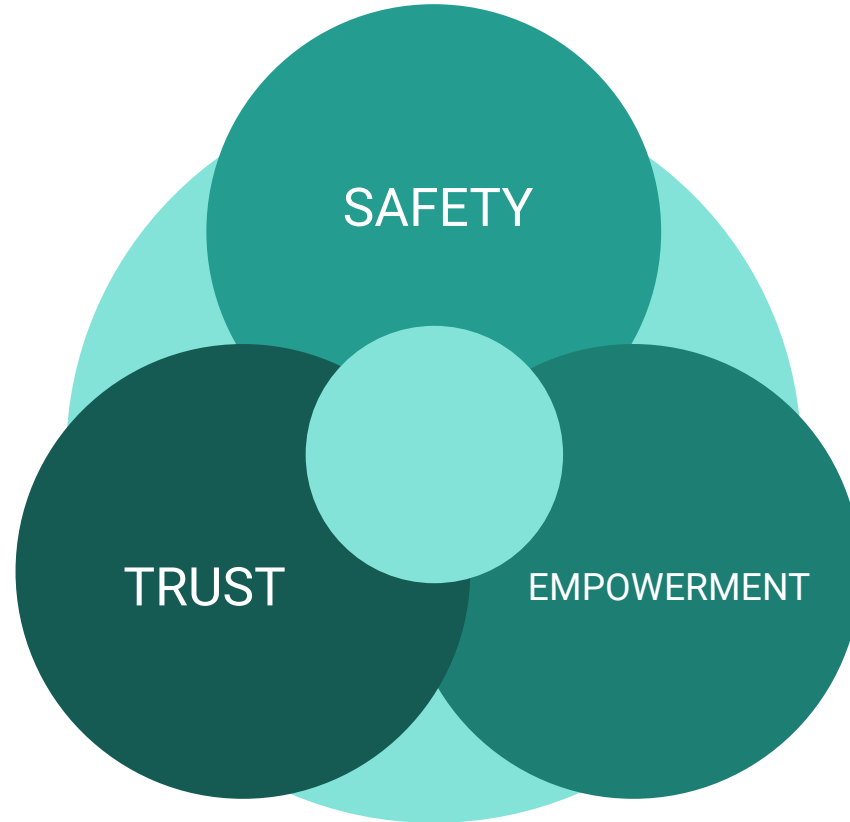
National Institutes of Health (NIH). (2022). Cyberbullying linked with suicidal thoughts and attempts in young adolescents. Retrieved from <https://www.nih.gov/news-events/nih-research-matters/cyberbullying-linked-suicidal-thoughts-attempts-young-adolescents>

How do we **RESPOND**?

Investigation, Trauma-Informed Response &
Trauma-Informed Considerations



A TRAUMA-INFORMED APPROACH

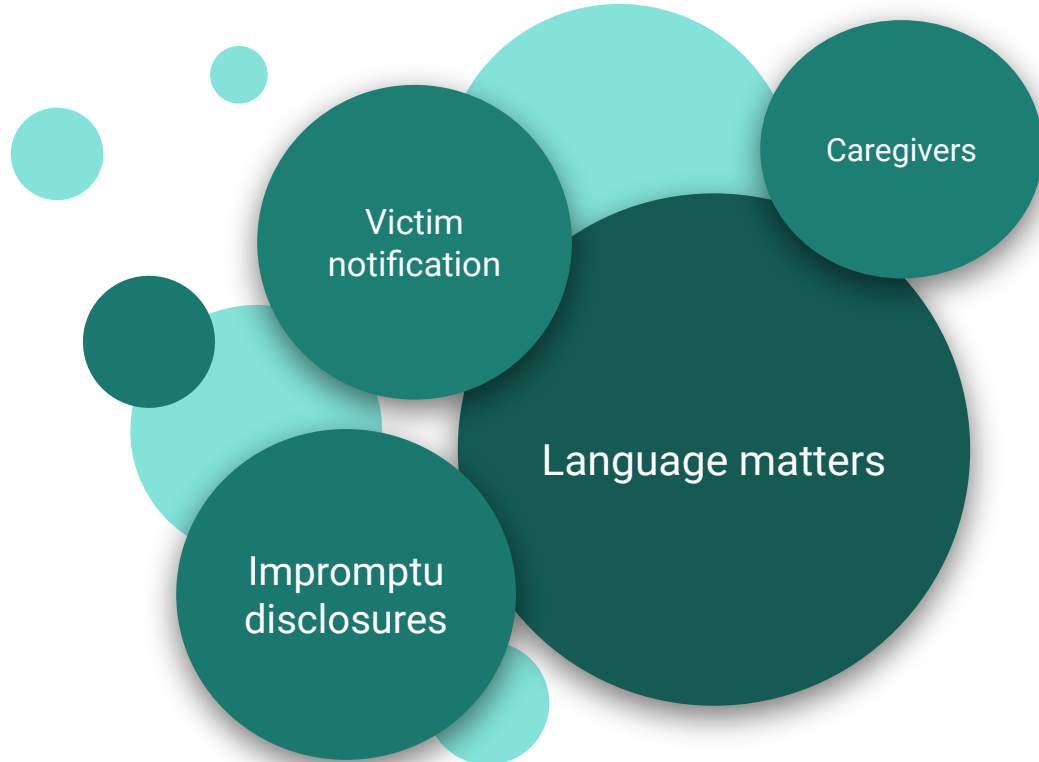


**Step #1:
Is the child
safe?**

INVESTIGATION

- **Safety first!**
 - Identify & locate victim
 - Medical treatment needed?
 - Minimal facts interview to assess for safety
 - Provide crisis intervention
- **Reporting requirements**
- **Key questions to consider**
 - What is already known about the child(ren) or young people involved?
 - How has the image been shared?
 - What do we know about intent or motivation behind creating or sharing the imagery?
 - What is the impact of the child(ren) or young people involved?
- **What do you do with the image(s)?**
- **Should we use parents/caregivers to identify images?**
- **Are the youth charged?**
- **Are the youth charged for being the one to produce or share the image(s)?**
- **How do we talk to the youth about an upcoming FI in a trauma-informed manner that also protects the integrity of the FI?**

TRAUMA-INFORMED RESPONSE & CONSIDERATIONS



Trauma-Informed Practices

Screening

Child trafficking,
ACEs, suicide



Trauma-Specific Treatment

Provide evidence-based, trauma-focused behavioral health interventions (TF-CBT)

Training & Education

Train staff at all levels (awareness, risk factors, warning signs, & trauma-informed service provision)

Mandated Reporting Requirements

Develop protocols for mandated reporting requirements for CSEC/CSAM

Suicide Prevention & Intervention Strategies

All screening and assessment protocols should also include suicide assessment measures: Columbia Suicide Severity Rating Scale.

Include suicide prevention and interventions tailored to address the needs of HT/CSAM victims and increase efforts to deliver these services to populations of at-risk youth (e.g., homeless youth).

Columbia Suicide Severity Rating Scale – Triage Version for Primary Care Settings

(Columbia Lighthouse Project, 2016)

- Brief, 6-question assessment of past and current ideation and behavior
- Includes guidelines regarding how professionals can direct individuals to various levels of care based on their responses

Always ask questions 1 and 2.	Past Month	
1) Have you wished you were dead or wished you could go to sleep and not wake up?		
2) Have you actually had any thoughts about killing yourself?		
If YES to 2, ask questions 3, 4, 5 and 6. If NO to 2, skip to question 6.		
3) Have you been thinking about how you might do this?	High Risk	
4) Have you had these thoughts and had some intention of acting on them?		
5) Have you started to work out or worked out the details of how to kill yourself? Did you intend to carry out this plan?		
Always Ask Question 6	Life-time	Past 3 Months
6) Have you done anything, started to do anything, or prepared to do anything to end your life? <i>Examples: Took pills, tried to shoot yourself, cut yourself, tried to hang yourself, or collected pills, obtained a gun, gave away valuables, wrote a will or suicide note, took out pills but didn't swallow any, held a gun but changed your mind or it was grabbed from your hand, went to the roof but didn't jump, etc.</i> If yes, was this within the past 3 months?		High Risk



If YES to 2 or 3, seek behavioral healthcare for further evaluation.
If the answer to 4, 5 or 6 is YES, get **immediate help**: Call or text 988, call 911 or go to the emergency room.
STAY WITH THEM until they can be evaluated.



Retrieved from:
<https://cssrs.columbia.edu/the-columbia-scale-c-ssrs/about-the-scale/>

RESOURCES

RESOURCES

What resources are available?



CSAM Resource Toolkit from National Children's Alliance:

<https://learn.nationalchildrensalliance.org/csec-resource-toolkit-sexual-images-resources>

Resources for MDT and Schools

- Staffordshire SafeGuarding Children Board “Responding to Sexting (Youth Produced Sexual Imagery): Guidance for Professionals”
- National Association of School Psychologists “Preventing Suicide: Guidelines for Administration and Crisis Teams”


Key questions should include:	
What is already known about the child(ren) or young people involved?	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Age of child(ren) or young people• Previous/current agency involvement• Vulnerability e.g. special educational needs, child in care etc.?• Immediate risk of harm• Multiple incidents
How has the imagery been shared?	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Public or private• Apps/services involved
What do we know about the intent or motivation behind creating or sharing the imagery?	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Adult involvement• Coercion or blackmail• Ability to “consent”• Image is extreme or violent
What is the impact on the child(ren) or young people involved?	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Emotional impact• Criminal consequences• Potential long term impact

Resources for Parents/Caregivers

- NCMEC Coping with CSAM Exposure For Families
- NCA When Images Hurt How to Understand, Respond, and Find Hope for Your Child
- Apple's Expanded Protections for Children on iPhone (Parental Controls for detecting CSAM)
- Thorn for Parents


Take the first step

With the right resources, parents will help their kids be safer online, build trust with their children, and become a safety net should an unwanted online sexual encounter ever occur.




Guides for navigating awkward discussions

[LEARN MORE](#)



Explore the intersection of tech and puberty

[SEE THE TIMELINE](#)



Practice conversations to build confidence

[START PRACTICING](#)

SMART PHONE APPS PARENTS SHOULD KNOW ABOUT

Courtesy of the Lee County Sheriff's Office

YUBO



YUBO has been called "Tinder for Teenagers." Users create a profile and swipe right or left depending on what profiles they like. It's connected to Snapchat and Instagram. No age verification.

WHATSAPP



WHATSAPP is an instant messaging app which lets you send messages, images and videos one on one or in group chats—which can result in bullying. You can also choose to share your live location.

VIBER



VIBER can be used to send free text messages, photos, video messages and phone calls to other users. The app uses your telephone number as your Username and only those contacts in the phone are the ones that can communicate with the user.

TEXTRA



TEXTRA is an instant messaging app which lets you send messages, images and videos one on one or in group chats—which can result in bullying. You can also choose to share your live location.

TEXTME



TEXTME lets you send unlimited texts and make unlimited phone calls to anyone in the world, while utilizing a free personal number and voicemail through the app. Scammers have been known to use this app to fraud people out of money.

GROUPME



GROUPME has been known for users to hide messaging activity from parents & has a feature to search the web directly from the app—unfiltered. The Geo-location feature encourages users to chat with strangers nearby.

HOT OR NOT



HOT OR NOT encourages users to rate your profile, check out people in their area, and chat with strangers. The goal of this app is to hook up.

HOUSEPARTY



HOUSEPARTY is a video chat app that lets teens chat with 2-8 people at the same time. All chats are unmoderated and teens may come in contact with inappropriate contact or cyberbullies.

BUMBLE



BUMBLE is similar to the popular dating app "Tinder", but it requires women to make the first contact. Kids have been known to use this app to create fake accounts and falsify their age.

LIVEME



LIVEME is a live-streaming video app that uses geo-location to share videos so users can find out a broadcaster's exact location. Users can earn "coins" as a way to "pay" minors for photos.

ASK.FM



ASK.FM is known for cyber bullying. The app encourages users to allow anonymous people to ask them questions.

HOLLA



HOLLA is a self-proclaimed "adicting" video chat app that allows users to meet people all over the world in just seconds. People say they have been confronted with racial slurs, explicit content and more.

CALCULATOR%



CALCULATOR% is only ONE of SEVERAL secret apps used to hide photos, videos, files and browser history.

SNAPCHAT



SNAPCHAT is one of the most popular apps of 2018. Even though the app promises users can take a photo/video and it will disappear, recent features including "stories" allows users to view content for up to 24-hours. It can allow users to see your location.

WHISPER



WHISPER is an anonymous social network that promotes sharing secrets with strangers. It also reveals a user's location so people can meet up.

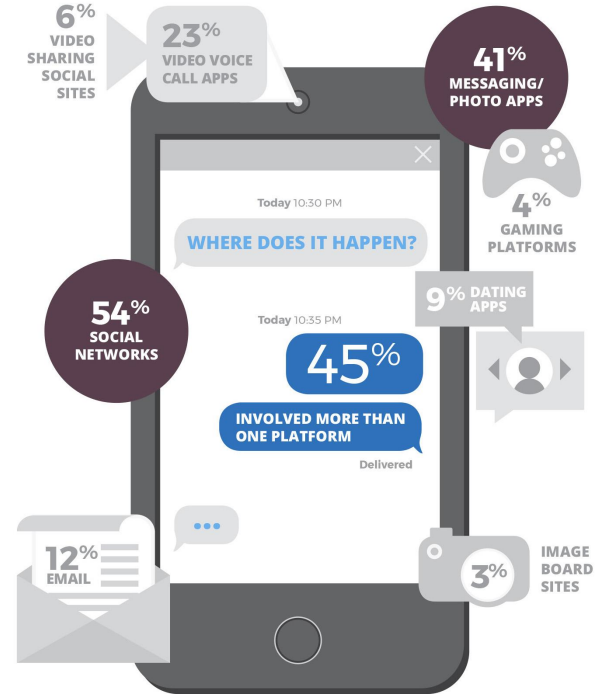
KIK



KIK allows anyone to contact & direct message your child. Kids can bypass traditional text messaging features and KIK gives users unlimited access to anyone, anywhere, anytime.

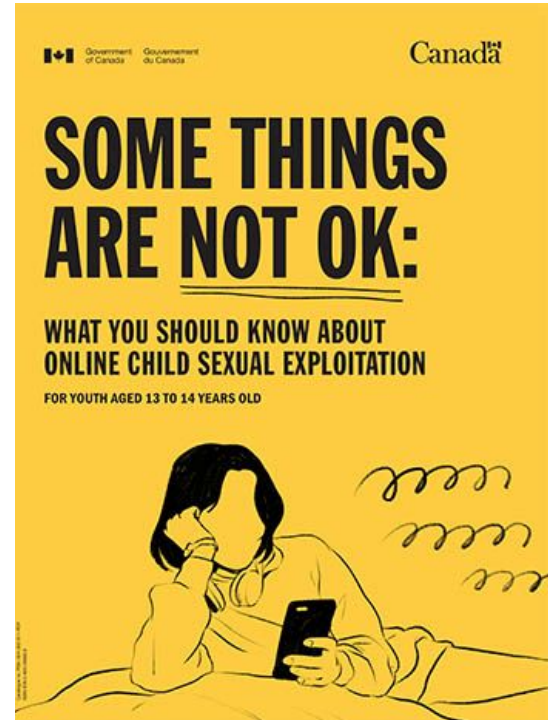
Resources for CSAM/YPSI Investigators

- Thorn
 - Spotlight
- Messaging, Malware, and Mobile Anti-Abuse WorkGroup: CSAM Best Practices
- Trauma-Informed Self-Preservation Strategies



Resources for Youth

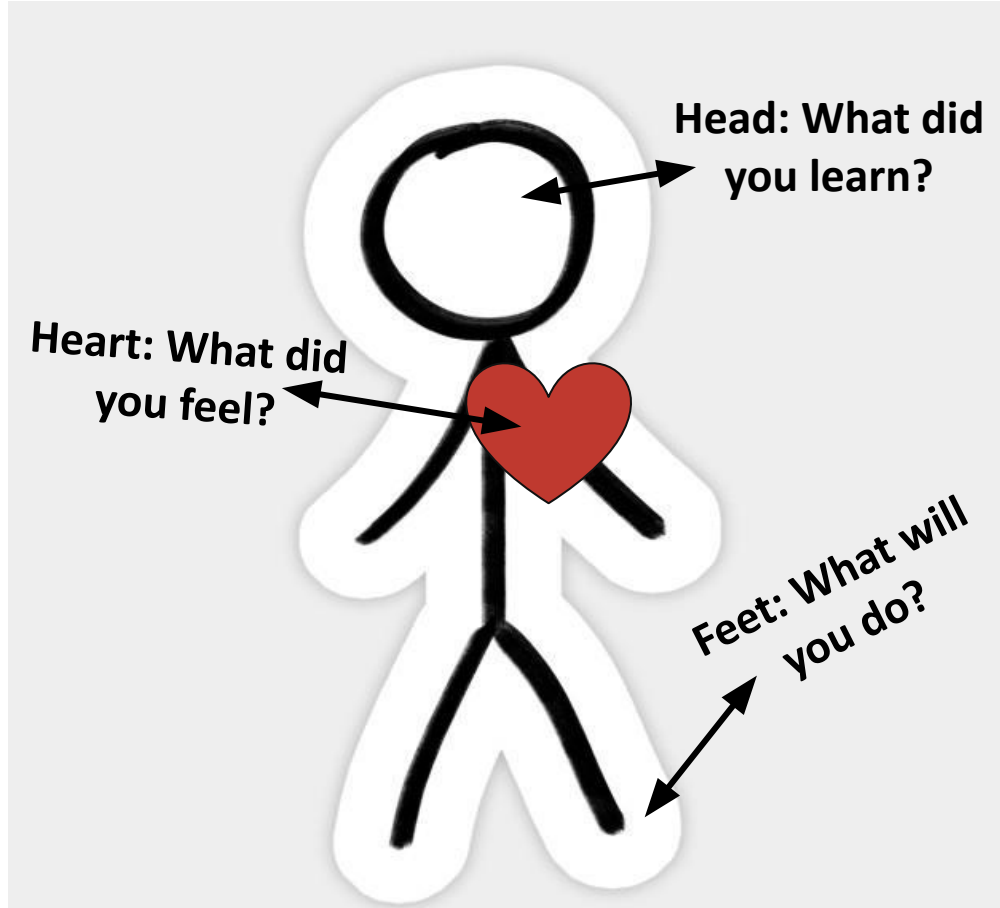
- Government of Canada “Some Things are Not Ok: What you Should Know About Online Child Sexual Exploitation”
Booklets
 - For Youth Ages 10-12
 - For Youth Ages 13-14
 - For Youth Ages 15-17



There is HOPE!



Questions & Reflections



We want your feedback!

- Remaining Training Sessions
 - Module 5: Specialized Forensic Training for Interviewing Victims of HT and CSAM
 - Monday, November 7th from 12-3pm CST (via Zoom)
 - Module 6: Developing a Trauma-Informed Community Response to HT and CSAM
 - Thursday, November 17th from 10am-4pm CST (in person in TN)
- Coaching Sessions
 - Tuesday, November 8th from 9-11am CST
 - Friday, November 11th from 9-11am CST
- Feedback Survey



Thank you!

Contact us

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