

CSEC Integrated Leadership Team *Quarterly Report*



Department of Children and
Family Services

Edward Fithyan, Department of Children and
Family Services

Michelle Guymon, Probation Department

Kent Wegener, Sheriff's Department



CSEC Initiatives, Advocacy and Training

- Parent Empowerment Program
 - 10 week class June 8th to August 10th
 - Parents - improvement in knowing how to help their child

- Advocacy Services
 - 685 Advocacy referrals through September 25
 - New RFP to be awarded in September 2019

- Countywide CSEC Training
 - 19 different CSEC trainings offered
 - 183 training classes completed
 - 19,492 people trained
 - 48,917 additional county employees trained in CSEC 101

Efforts to Hold Exploiters and Buyers Accountable

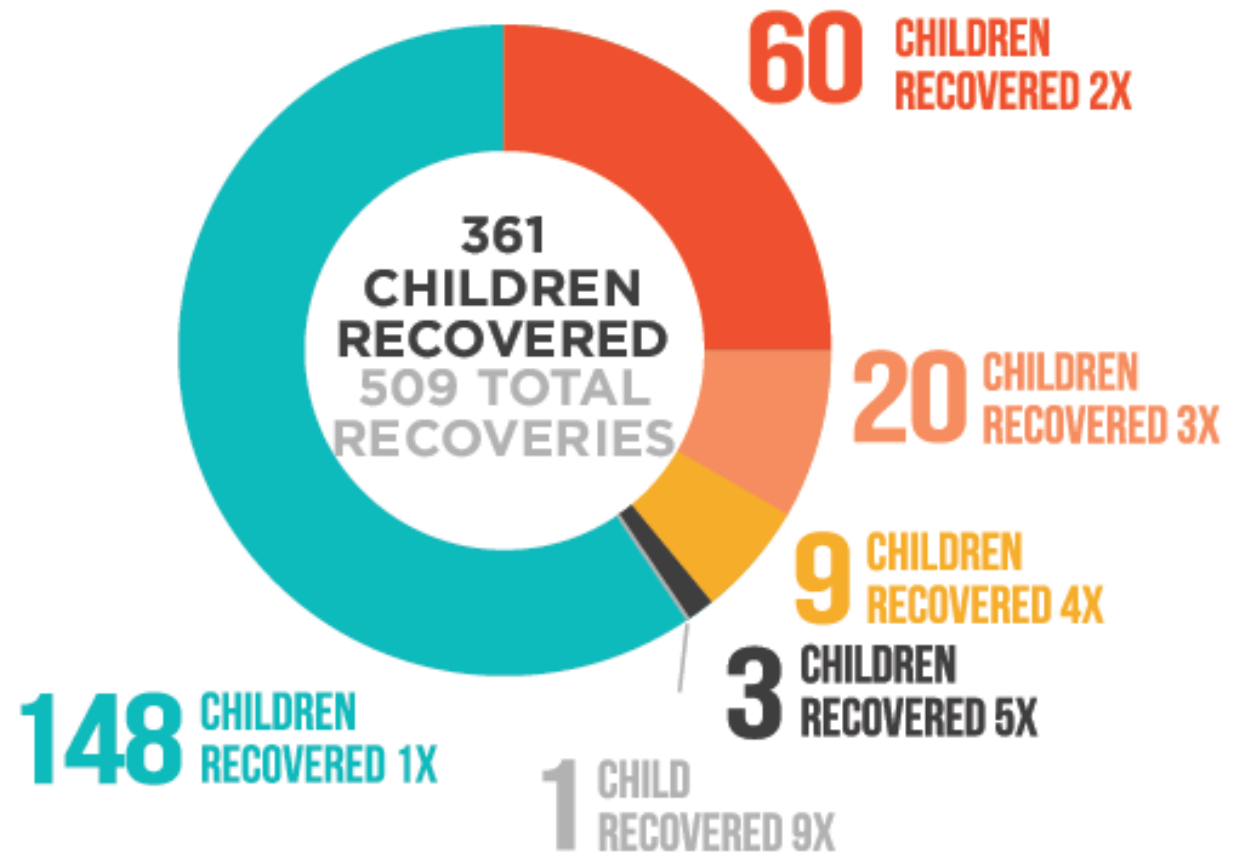
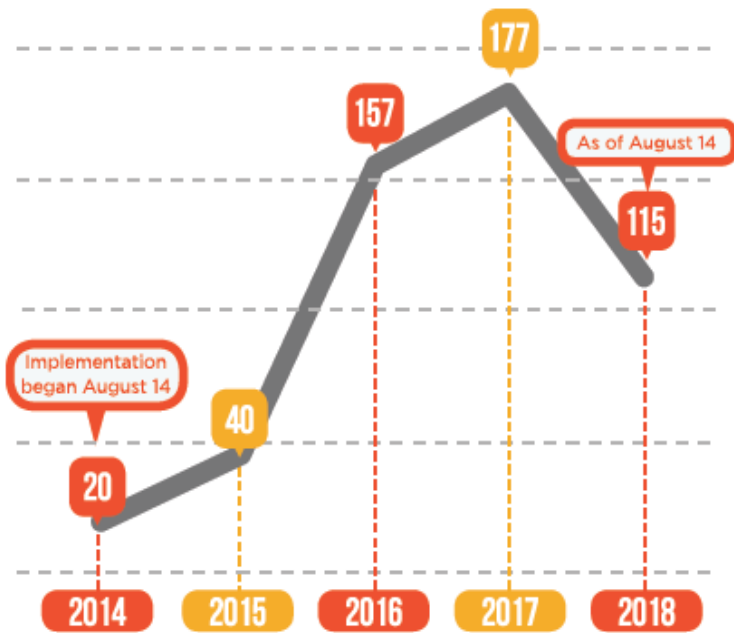
- 441 Arrests in the first eight months of 2018
- 12 Task Force operations along Long Beach Blvd.
 - May 15th to September 18th 2018
 - 84 arrests for purchasing sex, 9 arrests of exploiters
 - 26 victims recovered
- BOT Operations to potential buyers continue
- Task Force decoys interacted with 788 potential buyers
- Cease Network and Seattle Against Slavery
 - 2838 received anti-trafficking messages
 - 383,000 messages sent to targeted social media
- LASD anti-human trafficking website –
 - la.stopbuying.me

Law Enforcement First Responder Protocol for CSEC

- Implemented August 14, 2014
 - 522 Youth recovered (as of September 25, 2018)
 - 372 Individual youth recovered within Protocol areas
- Law Enforcement Jurisdictions
 - Active in all jurisdictions for:
 - Los Angeles Sheriff's Department
 - Los Angeles Police Department
 - Long Beach Police Department
 - Expansion to additional law enforcement agencies in 2019

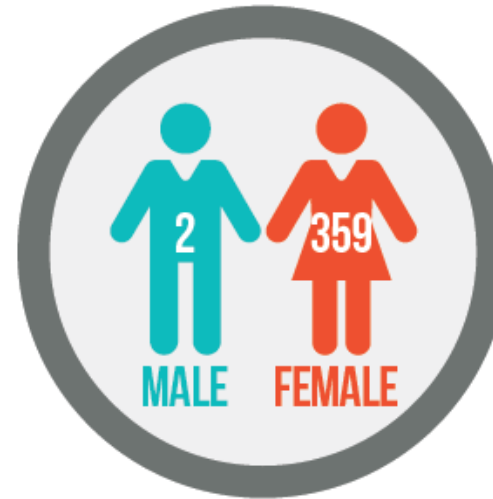
Law Enforcement First Responder Protocol: Four Year Look

RECOVERIES BY CALENDAR YEAR

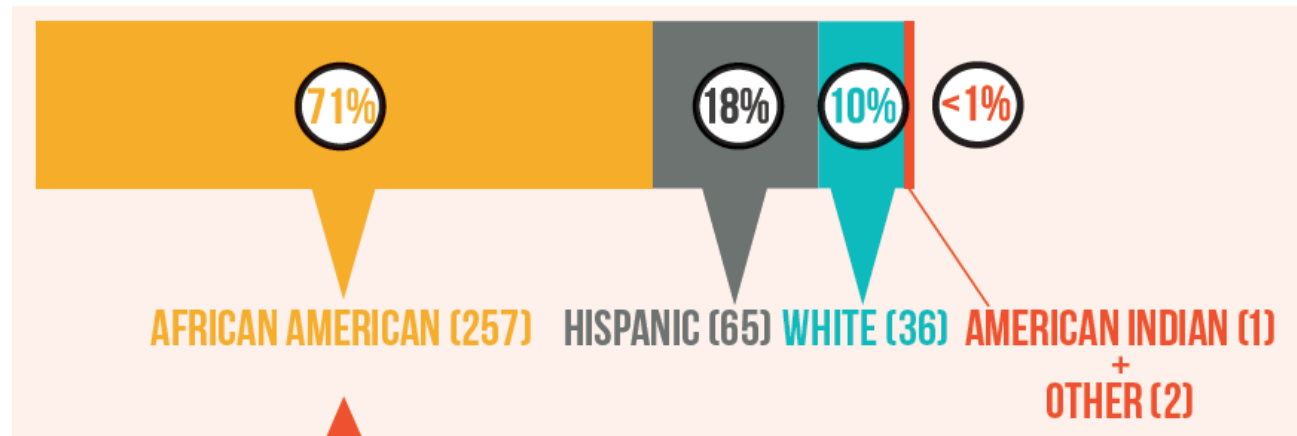


What We Know about Youth Recovered

85%
of cases
have a prior
child welfare
referral



**3,255 TOTAL REFERRALS
FOR 361 CHILDREN**



What Happened After FRP Recovery

She was there that night with me through the whole process, and then she even came the next morning and talked with me, so it was just having someone there because the first couple of nights, [at placement] I'm just like, - You know what? Forget it. I'm leaving. But just having her there and just being able to talk to someone helped. I'm just like, - You know, at least someone's expecting me to do better, knowing I can do better. So, it's like, Why not stay for her?"

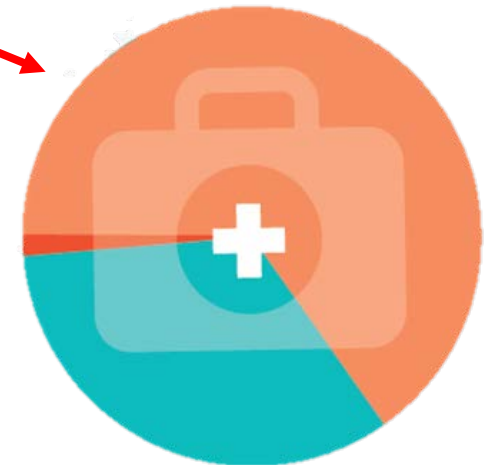
-Jasmine

YOUTH AWOLS DECREASED

- 11.9% as of 8/14/18
- 23.4% within 72 hours of recovery

65.5%

received a CSE
Medical evaluation
in the first 72 hours



Commercially Sexually Exploited Girls and Young Women Involved in Child Welfare and Juvenile Justice in Los Angeles County:

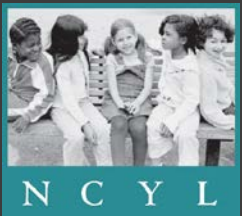
An Exploration and Evaluation of Placement Experiences and Services Received

Carly B. Dierkhising, PhD

Cal State LA

Kate Walker Brown, JD, Mae Ackerman-Brimberg, JD, MSW, & Allison Newcombe, JD

National Center for Youth Law



Multi-Method Analysis



ANALYSIS OF
ADMINISTRATIVE
DATA



YOUTH SURVEYS



IN-DEPTH
NARRATIVES:
INTERVIEWS AND
CASE FILE REVIEWS

Overview of the Probation Samples



Probation CSEC Sample

 14.3

AVERAGE AGE OF
FIRST ARREST



African-American 64.2%
Latina 28.7%

MAJORITY RACE/ETHNICITY



FIRST ARREST
REFERRAL
CHARGE**

Misdemeanor 57.5%
Felony 38.2%



14.2

AVERAGE AGE OF
FIRST ARREST



African-American 63.3%
Latina 30.0%

MAJORITY RACE/ETHNICITY



FIRST ARREST
REFERRAL
CHARGE**

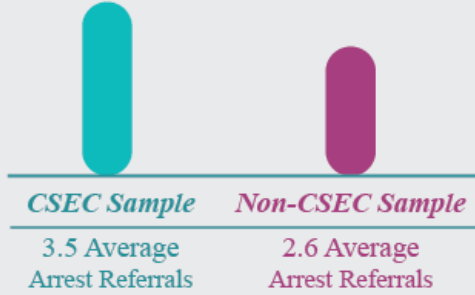
Felony 52.3%
Misdemeanor 46.4%



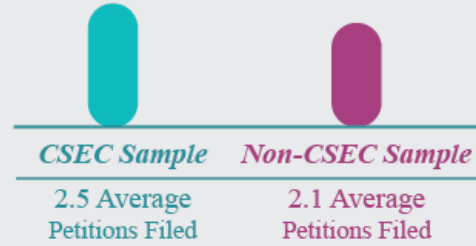
Probation Non-CSEC Sample



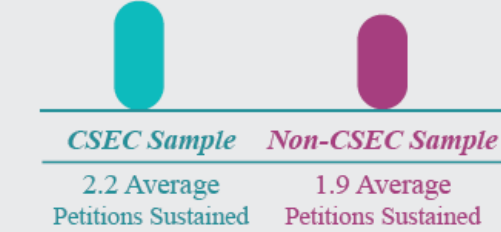
ARREST REFERRALS/ CHARGES***



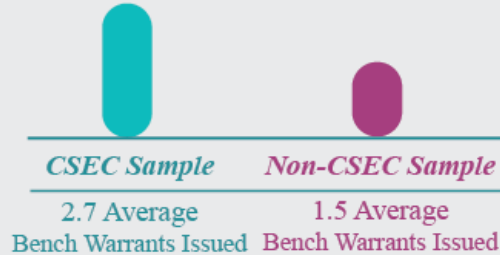
PETITIONS FILED**



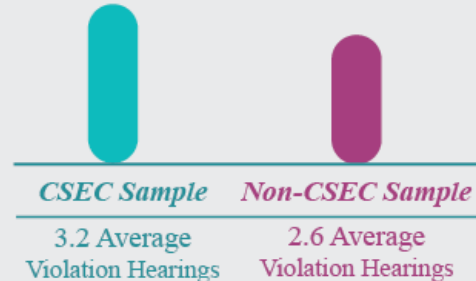
PETITIONS SUSTAINED**



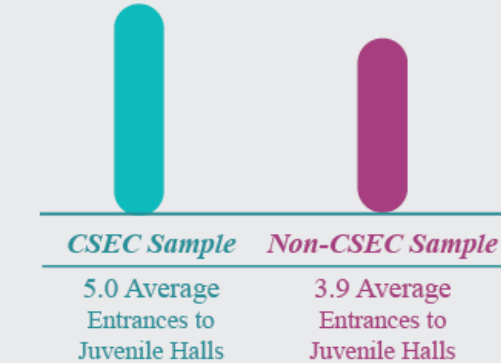
BENCH WARRANTS ISSUED***



VIOLATION HEARINGS



ENTRANCES TO JUVENILE HALLS***



AVERAGE
CUMULATIVE TIME
INCARCERATED

CSEC Sample

316.3 Days

Non-CSEC Sample

271.4 Days

Overview of DCFS Samples



DCFS CSEC Sample

6.8

AVERAGE AGE OF FIRST REPORT

9.2

AVERAGE NUMBER OF PRIOR REPORTS***
... SUBSTANTIATED REPORTS*** - 3.5



African-American 59.8%

Latina 28.9%

MAJORITY RACE/ETHNICITY

6.4

AVERAGE AGE OF FIRST REPORT

7.2

AVERAGE NUMBER OF PRIOR REPORTS***
... SUBSTANTIATED REPORTS*** - 3.5



African-American 59.9%

Latina 29.8%

MAJORITY RACE/ETHNICITY

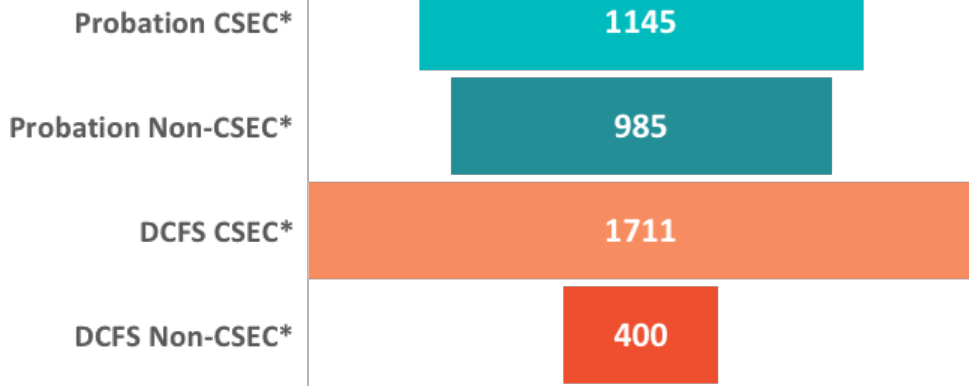


DCFS Non-CSEC Sample

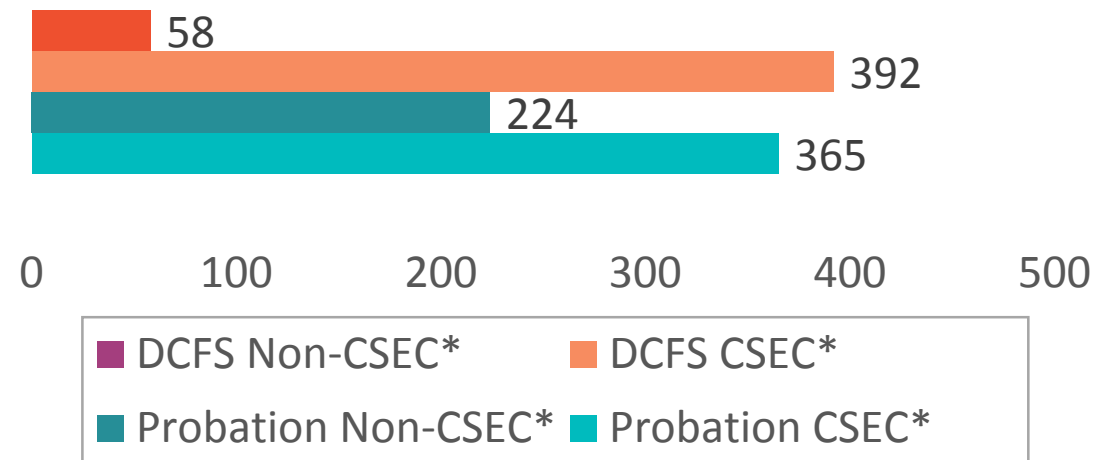
Placement Changes



Total Placement Changes



Placement Changes Due to Runaway



Placement Changes Due to Runaway from Group Homes



Focus on Group Homes

small group home (6 bed home)

medium group home (7-23 beds)

large group home (24 beds and up)

out of state

out of county (small 6 beds: large 7 + beds)

Probation Samples: Group Homes

Which group homes did youth stay at longer?

- The longest average stays for the CSEC sample were in small, out of county placements (188 days or 6.3 months); however, there were only 25 stays in this placement type for the CSEC sample.
- The longest average stays for both samples in local group homes were in the medium sized group homes (CSEC = 172.2 days or 5.7 months; non-CSEC = 191.7 days or 6.4 months).

Which group homes had more placement changes due to running away?

- Running away was the reason for placement change most frequently from the small (34%) and large (32%) group homes for the CSEC sample.
- The CSEC sample was significantly more likely to run away from both the small and large group homes compared to the non-CSEC sample.

Thus, medium sized group homes had the longest average stays for the CSEC sample and the fewest placement changes due to running away.

DCFS Samples: Group Homes

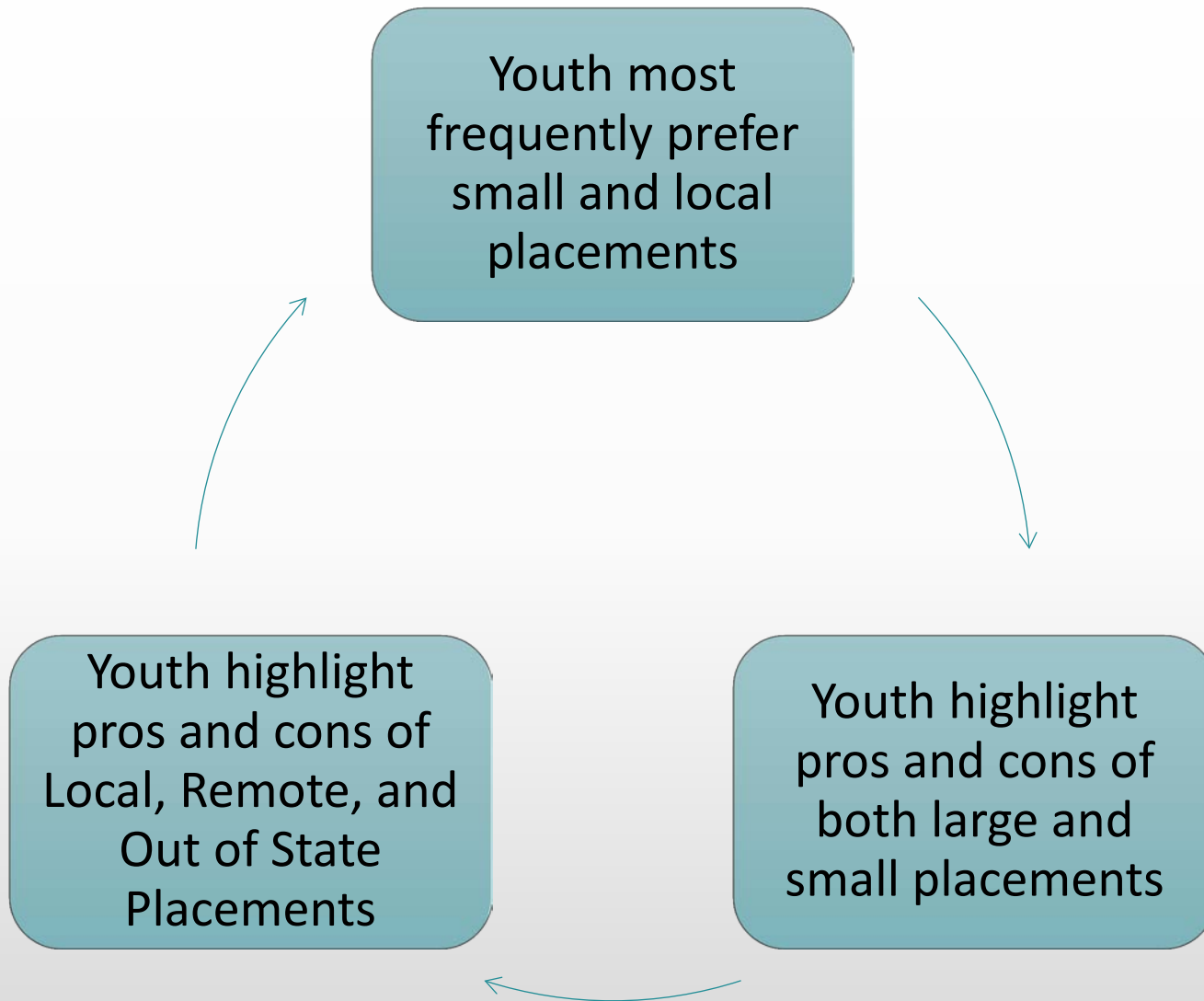
Which group homes did youth stay at longer?

- The longest average stays for the CSEC sample were in large, out of county placements (174.2 days or 5.8 months).
- For both samples, the shortest stays, on average, were in medium sized group homes (CSEC = 68.4 days; non-CSEC = 68.4 days).

Which group homes had more placement changes due to running away?

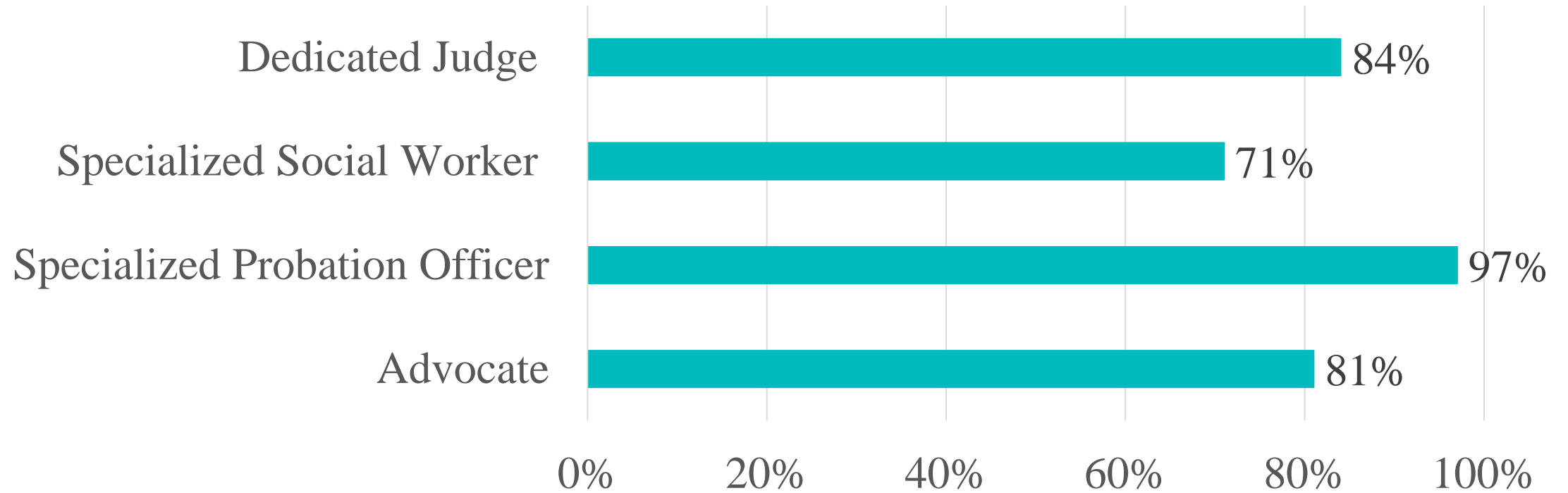
- Running away was the reason for placement change most frequently with the small (51%) and large group homes (23%)
- Of local placements, running away as reason for placement change was least common from medium group homes for the CSEC sample (6%)

Thus, medium group homes and large out of county placements have some placement stability with caveats for each.



Placement Preferences Identified in the Youth Surveys

Percent of CSEC/Y who found the Service Helpful



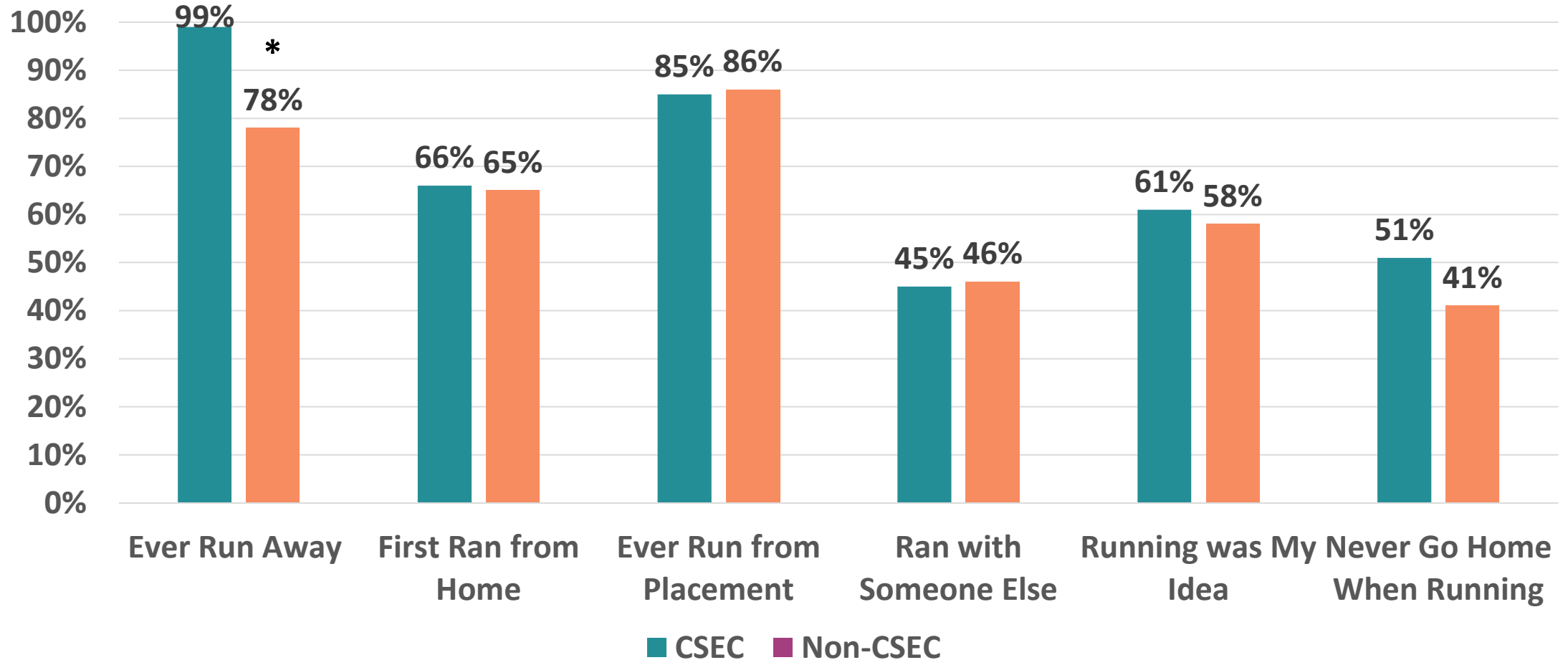
Perceptions of Services Among CSE
Girls and Young Women



Opinions on How to Improve Placements

- What type of training do you believe group home staff should have to work with CSE youth?
 - **CSEC training**
 - Girls expressed the desire for staff to understand what they have been through more, how to talk to them, and how to not be judgmental.
 - ***“Staff need more advice on CSEC issues, sometimes they made me feel bad and ashamed.”***
- How would you improve placements?
 - **Improve rapport and engagement between staff and themselves.**
 - CSE girls also recommended better staff, more money, better food, more outings and activities, better and more immediate therapeutic services, more clothes, and more passes.
 - ***“Longer home passes, passes to other relatives and more services.”***
 - ***“Immediate therapeutic services, even the day you get there I need that; more group sessions; longer family passes.”***

Running Behavior: Comparisons between CSE and non-CSE girls



Interviews and Case File Reviews

Sasha

- Sasha is 17 years old and is African American.
- Sasha had several referrals to DCFS beginning at 3 years old that were inconclusive. She then entered Probation after getting into a fight in middle school.
- Once on Probation she began running due to abuse in the home and was eventually placed out of home.
- Her first placement was a large group home. She was not exploited until she was placed out of home and continued to run.

“

I don't think I was at that level to be placed there – I wasn't that high risk yet - but exposing me to all of that stuff just made it worse.

”

Recommendations

Build Capacity in Placements

- Learn from and expand capacity at placements that have more positive outcomes
- Prioritize home-like settings
- Couple safe physical settings with well-trained and consistent staff
- Offer a range of services, activities, and privileges
- Maintain connections to natural supports, including families, friends, and schools
- Develop policies and practices to support safety and wellbeing of youth who run from care, make efforts to understand why youth run, and make improvements as needed

“I wasn’t that high risk yet - but exposing me to all of that stuff just made it worse

”

Recognize and Address the Impact of Trauma

- Prevalence of trauma & how it manifests
- Holistic services to address whole youth
- Screening and assessment
- Historical, intergenerational, institutional sources of trauma
- Avoid re-traumatization through system involvement
- Evidence-based interventions
- Vicarious trauma

“No it was like they kept taking us back, putting us back, taking us back, putting us back... And then, my mom, she was still being on drugs but she was also having health problems and having babies at the same time.”

I was just putting my hands on people - I was just angry.

I was fucking around. At the same time I didn't care, but at the same time they didn't know I was grieving for my mom. But I didn't understand I was grieving either.

Latisha ran into traffic to attempt to get hit by a car, stating that “since she lost her family she had nothing to live for.

Promote Consistent, Healthy Relationships

- Expand specialized services
- Consistency in staffing
- Maintain connection to natural supports, including peers
- Build community around interests and shared goals

“I think that I wouldn’t have made as much progress if I didn’t have my team. My direct team. Everything else I can care less about. My therapist, my case manager, have always stayed the same.” - Sasha



Center and Promote the Child/Youth's Perspective

“She is like my voice when I can't speak up. She knows how to get my point across without me having to lash out or do anything crazy. - Sasha

- Inclusion of youth voice, choice and participation in decisions affecting their lives
- Transparency when decisions don't align with youth's expressed preferences
- Ongoing feedback mechanisms – individual and focus group opportunities re: staff, placements, etc.
- Trust and boundaries around privileges

Comprehensive Training and Staff Supports

- Understanding risks and vulnerabilities
- Avoiding “otherizing” and labeling
- Assessing and responding to trauma
- Addressing recruitment
- Harm reduction
- Vicarious trauma
- Leadership and supervision

Youth want staff who are:

- Well-trained
- Non-judgmental
- Understanding
 - Consistent
 - Caring
 - Genuine

“Staff need more advice on CSEC issues, sometimes they made me feel bad and ashamed. - Youth



Establish Multidisciplinary Collaboration

Latisha felt supported by her team at STAR Court, including her educational advocate, her attorney, the bailiff, and the DA. She said, “*Everybody in the courtroom, they support... you feel like a family.*”

- Address youth’s holistic needs – health, mental health, education, recreation, housing
- Develop a common philosophical approach
- Multi-disciplinary teaming, assessments, case planning, including the youth (and family, where appropriate)
- Ongoing safety planning
- Transition planning

Address Racial/Ethnic Disproportionality and Provide Culturally Appropriate Services

- Improve understanding of county practices contributing to disparities
 - Disparities in system involvement
 - Implicit/explicit biases
- Expand and explore effectiveness of culturally appropriate services
- Strategies to address historical and intergenerational distrust of systems

“You gotta be careful where you place us. And I say that because you can’t have – hmm – you can’t have a whole bunch of Black girls from L.A. trying to go to a school...like you know going to school where it’s only two or three black kids because then everybody know that you DCFS, I mean, everybody know you’re on probation, everybody.” - Latisha



Build a Robust Data Collection & Evaluation System

- Clear definitions of individual success and positive outcomes—both traditional and non-traditional measures—with input from youth
- Clear definitions of program and system successes and positive outcomes related to staff, system interactions, and evaluations from youth
- Inclusion of objective and subjective measures
- Collection of data at key decision-making points
- Collection of pre- and post-intervention data, including: standardized criteria for making referral decisions, assessments before and after to determine impact, service dosage, and variation of services

Final Thoughts

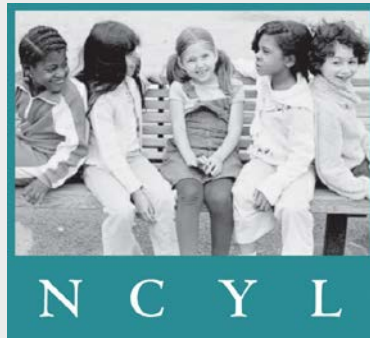
*“Being raped, and just being in the streets, and having nobody, so they just go to the streets. It’s hard...Some people judged them off the bat because what they did, you know? **But, if you sit down and talk to them, you’ll really understand. They just need, probably, somebody to talk to, and somebody to be there for them, and to give them somewhere to stay, without them having to go out there and do something just to – a pair of shoes, or a pair of outfit, or something, you know?”***

– Jada

*“You know, at least someone’s **expecting me to do better, knowing I can do better.** So, it’s like, *Why not stay for her?*”*

– Jasmine

*“And, I feel like y’all should **give the girls hope, like they have something to live for.**” – Jada*



Carly Dierkhising, PhD

Cal State LA

cdierkh@calstatela.edu

Kate Walker Brown, JD

National Center for Youth Law

kwalker@youthlaw.org

Administrative Data: Sample Descriptions

Probation CSEC Sample (n = 254)

- (1) a female,
- (2) with a placement history between the timeframe of January 1, 2014 through December 1, 2017, and
- (3) who was identified as CSEC by Probation's CTU.

Probation non-CSEC Sample (n = 237)

- (1) a female,
- (2) with a placement history between the timeframe of January 1, 2014 through December 1, 2017,
- (3) who were not identified as CSEC by the Probation's CTU or DCFS;
- (4) matched on age and race/ethnicity to the Probation CSEC sample.

DCFS CSEC Sample (n = 246)

- (1) a female,
- (2) who had an allegation of exploitation substantiated between January 1, 2015 and December 31, 2017, and
- (3) who had an out of home placement history.

DCFS non-CSEC Sample (n = 242)

- (1) a female,
- (2) who never had an allegation of exploitation substantiated,
- (3) who had an out of home placement history, and
- (4) matched on age and race/ethnicity to the DCFS CSEC sample.

Table 9. Breakdown of group home placements and reasons for placement change for the Probation CSEC sample and the matched non-CSEC comparison group.

	CSEC (n=254)			Non-CSEC (n=237)			Group Difference
	n (stays)	M(days)	sd	n (stays)	M(days)	sd	
<i>Time in Care per Group Home Stay (days)</i>							
Small Group Home	387	112.1	251.9	320	144.0	321.5	--
Medium Group Home	68	172.2	261.8	66	191.7	293.3	--
Large Group Home	268	105.5	191.1	275	150.2	235.7	--
Out-of-State	34	157.3	200.6	21	163.3	124.1	--
Out-of-County	204	137.3	424.6	145	165.4	286.6	--
<i>Out-of-County (OOC)</i>							
OOC-small	25	188.2	463.8	19	81.3	73.1	--
OOC-large	179	130.1	419.8	126	178.0	304.4	--
<i>Secure Facilities</i>							
Level 14 ⁴⁴	16	83.4	75.6	17	107.1	151.6	--
Dorothy Kirby Center	36	195.2	542.1	12	102.2	130.0	--
	n	%		n	%		χ^2
<i>Runaway as Reason for Placement Change by Group Home Type</i>							
Small Group Home	109	34.3		68	33.7		5.3*
Medium Group Home	18	.06		20	9.9		--
Large Group Home	103	32.4		79	39.1		5.7*
Out-of-State	8	2.5		4	2.0		--
Out-of-County	80	25.2		31	15.3		12.8****
<i>Out-of-county (OOC)</i>							
OOC-small	12	15		7	22.6		--
OOC-large	68	85		24	77.4		13.2****

Note: *p<.05, **p<.01, ****p<.001

Table 10. Breakdown of group home placements and reasons for placement change for the DCFS CSEC sample and a matched non-CSEC comparison group.

	CSEC (n=246)			Non-CSEC (n=242)			Group Difference
	n (stays)	M (days)	sd	n (stays)	M (days)	sd	
<i>Time in Care per Group Home Stay (days)</i>							
Small Group Home	686	118.5	198.3	180	182.8	439.5	2.88**
Medium Group Home	59	68.4	108.6	31	61.9	111.3	--
Large Group Home	341	116.3	183.6	85	179.4	398.4	2.15*
Out-of-State	15	111.9	99.7	0	0.0	.	--
Out-of-County	224	166.2	509.6	39	198.0	238.4	--
<i>Out-of-County (OOC)</i>							
OOC-small	32	118.1	155.2	0	0.0	.	--
OOC-large	192	174.2	546.6	39	198.0	238.4	--
<i>Secure Facilities</i>							
Level 14	100	144.8	396.8	6	81.8	49.7	--
Dorothy Kirby Center	6	32.3	37.9	-			
	n	%		n	%		χ^2
<i>Runaway as Reason for Placement Change by Group Home Type</i>	109	100		19	100		29.5****
Small Group Home	56	51.4		7	36.8		24.2****
Medium Group Home	7	6.4		3	15.8		--
Large Group Home	25	22.9		7	36.8		7.7**
Out-of-State	6	5.5		0	0		--
Out-of-County	15	13.8		1	5.3		3.8, $p = .052$
<i>Out-of-County (OOC)</i>							
OOC-small	4	25		0			--
OOC-large	11	75		1	100		--

Note: *p<.05, **p<.01, ***p<.001

Table 6. Placement history of the DCFS CSEC sample and the matched non-CSEC comparison group.

	CSEC (n=246)		Non-CSEC (n=242)		Group Difference
	<i>All with Placement History</i>				
	mean	sd	m	sd	
Age of First Out of Home Placement	11.8	5.3	11.7	5.3	--
Total Placements	5.0	4.5	3.0	2.6	6.04***
	<i>M(days)</i>	sd	<i>M(days)</i>	sd	
<i>Cumulative Time in Placements¹</i>	1019.2	1440.0	620.8	932.6	3.62***
Group Home	1120.8	1514.2	812.2	1121.0	1.67**
FFA	1453.0	1709.1	833.9	1055.6	3.44***
Relative Home	1384.3	1536.8	755.2	984.5	3.85***

		n	col(%)		n	col(%)		χ^2
Runaway as Reason for Placement Change by Group Home Type		318	100		202	100		
	Small Group Home	109	34.3		68	33.7		5.3*
	Medium Group Home	18	.06		20	9.9		--
	Large Group Home	103	32.4		79	39.1		5.7*
	Out of State	8	2.5		4	2.0		--
	Out of County	80	25.2		31	15.3		12.8***
Out of County								
	OOC-small	12	15		7	22.6		--
	OOC-large	68	85		24	77.4		13.2***

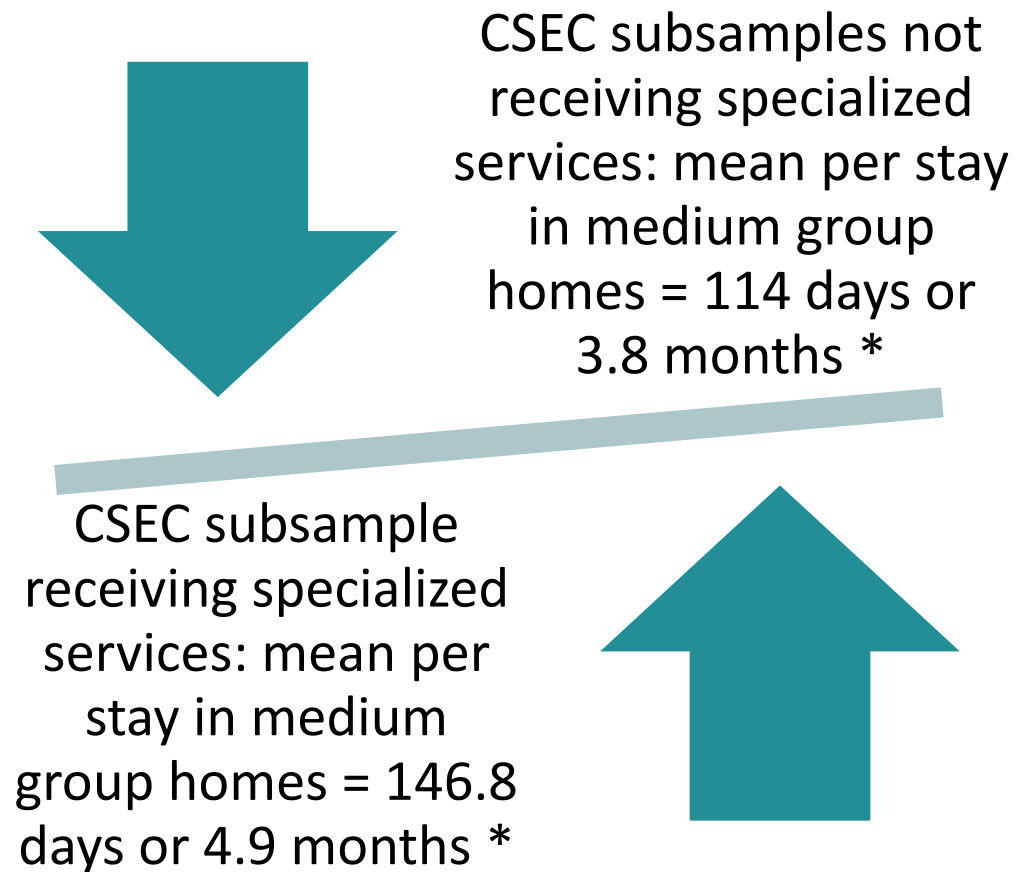
Note: *p<.05, **p<.01, ***p<.001

		n	%		n	%		χ^2
Runaway as Reason for Placement Change by Group Home Type		109	100		19	100		29.5***
	Small Group Home	56	51.4		7	36.8		24.2***
	Medium Group Home	7	6.4		3	15.8		--
	Large Group Home	25	22.9		7	36.8		7.7**
	Out of State	6	5.5		0	0		--
	Out of County	15	13.8		1	5.3		3.8, p = .052
Out of County								
	OOC-small	4	25		0			--
	OOC-large	11	75		1	100		--

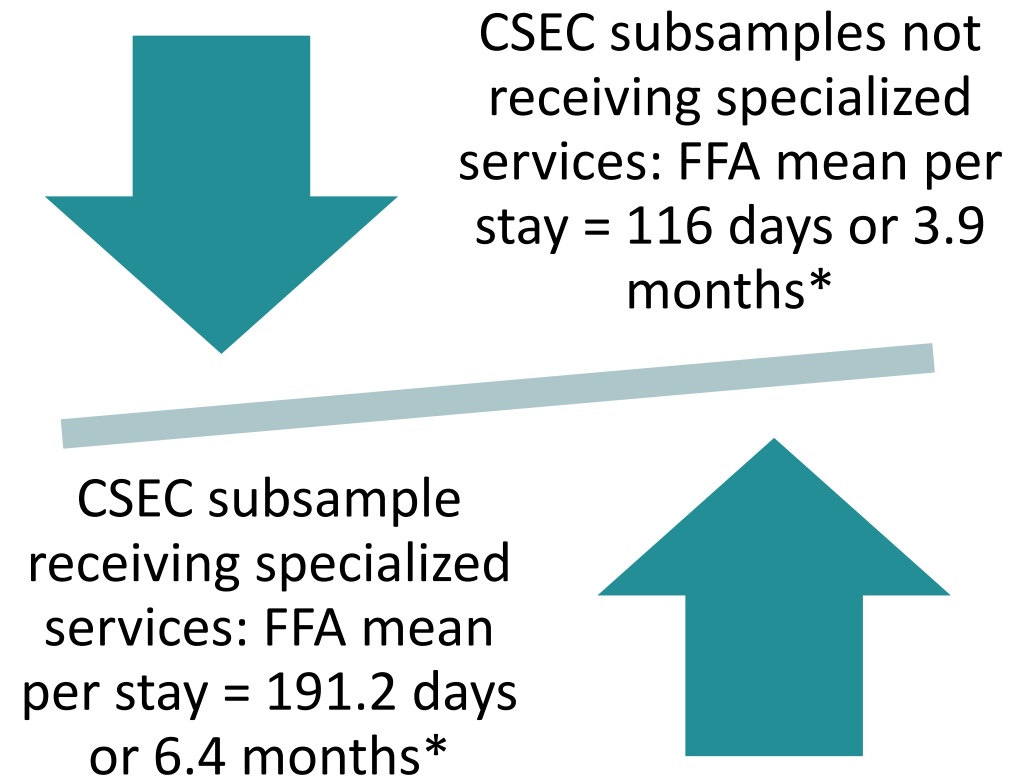
Note: *p<.05, **p<.01, ***p<.001

Differences in Placement Stays by Service Receipt: 2+ vs 0 Specialized Services

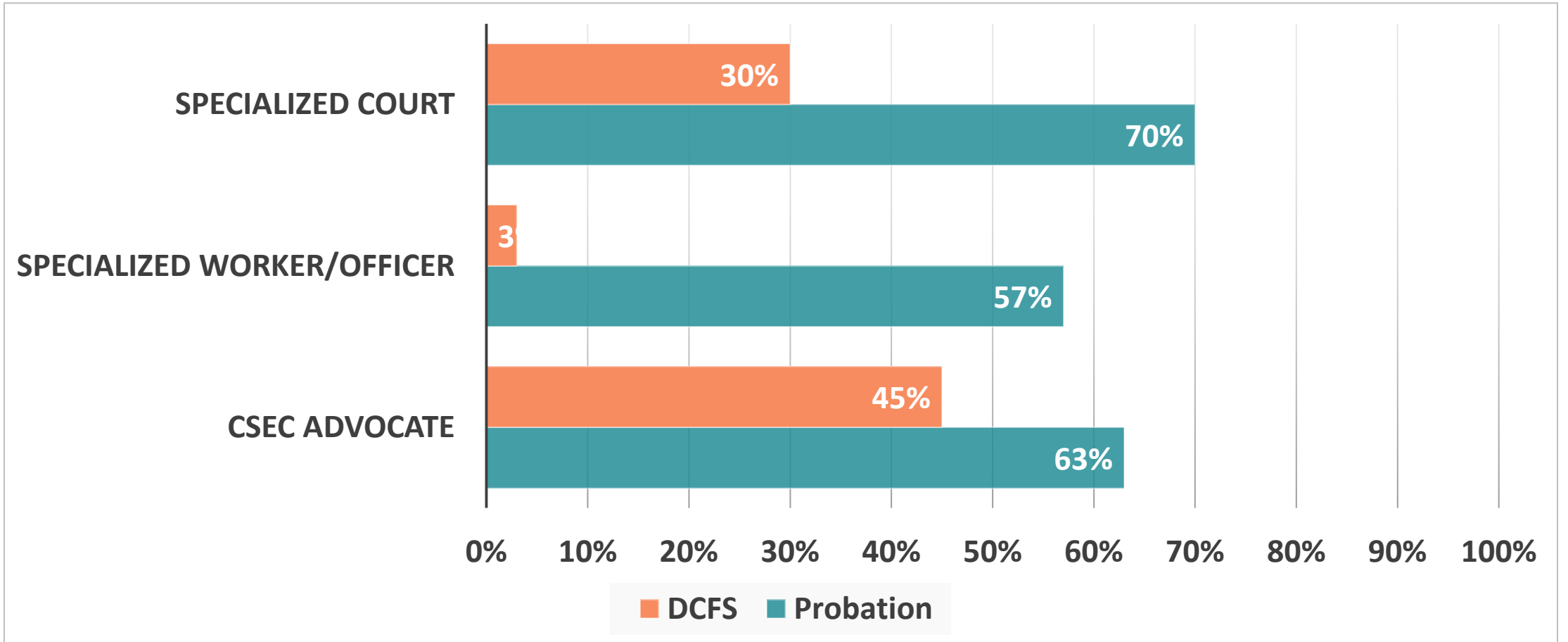
Probation Subsamples



DCFS Subsamples



Service Receipt Among the Samples



Note: This figure is not representative of all youth receiving these services, it only represents those included in the current study.

Skylar

- Skylar first became involved with Probation at 13 years old, when her parents called the police because they believed she was out of control.
- At placement, she was first exposed to commercial sexual exploitation through peers. She ran from that placement and was subsequently commercially sexually exploited.
- Skylar was referred to the specialized Probation unit, STAR Court, and had an advocate. Eventually, Skylar was trafficked out of state.
- Shortly after she returned she was arrested for robbery and placed at the Dorothy Kirby Center. She later returned home where she currently resides with her parents and siblings.

“

That's why I don't like big facilities. But, then those six beds are for sure like – that six bed, I liked that one. I completed that. I didn't leave.

”

“

I wouldn't recommend anyone to go through what I've been through. It's not fun. It doesn't feel good. I mean, it's just you looking for a fast way to live life, I guess.

”

- Christal is 19 years and recently had a baby and is receiving independent living resources through AB 12.
- Christal's history in DCFS started when she was two years old. Throughout her life, she was referred to DCFS a total of 48 times for allegations of abuse, neglect, and exploitation. Her father was charged and served prison time for the attempted rape of her sister.
- When Christal was 16, she was recovered by Vice who found her on Craigslist, where she was being sold for sex. She was assigned a specialized case worker through DCFS and a specialized advocate.
- Christal moved into her own apartment two months before her child was born.

Christal

“Because I feel like I can trust the person that has say so over my freedom. That she will look out for my wellbeing”

“It’s easier to bond and build trust with them knowing they have your best interest at heart”

“I feel I will always have her [even] if my family gives up on me”

“It’s good to have a PO who knows what you have been through and has watched you grow. It helps to have the same PO: no change and/or transfer”

“They are more helpful than having a regular PO”

“Yes, even though I was not open with [my] PO at first, having the same PO the entire time has given me the chance to develop a relationship of trust.”

Specialized Probation Officer

“You can trust that they will fight for you whether it be what you want or need”

“Yes, because there's another voice speaking for you”

“Yes, for emergencies when feeling like AWOLing”

“So I can talk to her about the things that went on in the street that I can't tell my PO or the judge.”

“They are a positive role model and are like a big sister”

“Yes because they understand us more”

Community-Based Advocate

“It helps to have a consistent team that understands what is going on”

“They have an understanding of your history”

“They seem to help more and pay attention to my needs”

Specialized Courtroom

“yes because we need someone on our case to really help & understand,”

“yes because they understand us more”

“yes so you won’t have to keep opening up to people.”

Specialized Social Worker

“

**... they didn't know I was
grieving for my mom. But I
didn't understand I was grieving
either.**”

- Latisha is 19 years old and is African American. She has been involved in the child welfare system for her entire life.
- She was removed from her mother the day after she was born with drug exposure.
- When Latisha was 13 years old, her mother died. A few months later, Latisha was arrested for prostitution, which started her involvement with Probation.
- Her Probation case recently closed and she utilizes the AB 12 program to access independent living resources and services.

Latisha

“

But it's just like I have abandonment issues with my family in general, so it was just him telling me he loved me was just a big thing...

”

- Jasmine was removed from her home when she was 12 years old when her mother gave birth to her youngest brother who was drug exposed. She lived with a supportive foster family for the first few years until she went to live with an aunt.
- Both of Jasmine's parents died within a year of each other. Three months later, Jasmine ran away and was found soliciting sex from a Vice Officer. That night, she met her social worker and a specialized, community-based advocate.
- After bouncing between relatives' homes, her trafficker, and placements for the following few years, Jasmine became very focused on school. She graduated from high school and was accepted to multiple 4-year universities.

Jasmine

Jada

- Jada was dually-involved in Probation and DCFS. She came to the attention of DCFS as a victim of commercial sexual exploitation at 15 years old after being kidnapped, trafficked out of state, and left on a street corner in Los Angeles.
- Jada then struggled in several out of home placements. She frequently ran away and got in trouble for fighting. Jada was also experiencing several mental health issues. Eventually a fight at a placement initiated her involvement with Probation which, coupled with her CSEC history, led to an out-of-state placement.
- After returning home from placement, Jada continued to run away, leave school without permission, and do drugs. Jada struggles with her trauma and her mother has quit her job in order to take care of her.

“

How'll you'll treat your child, that what you have to – You have to be there for them, mentally and physically.

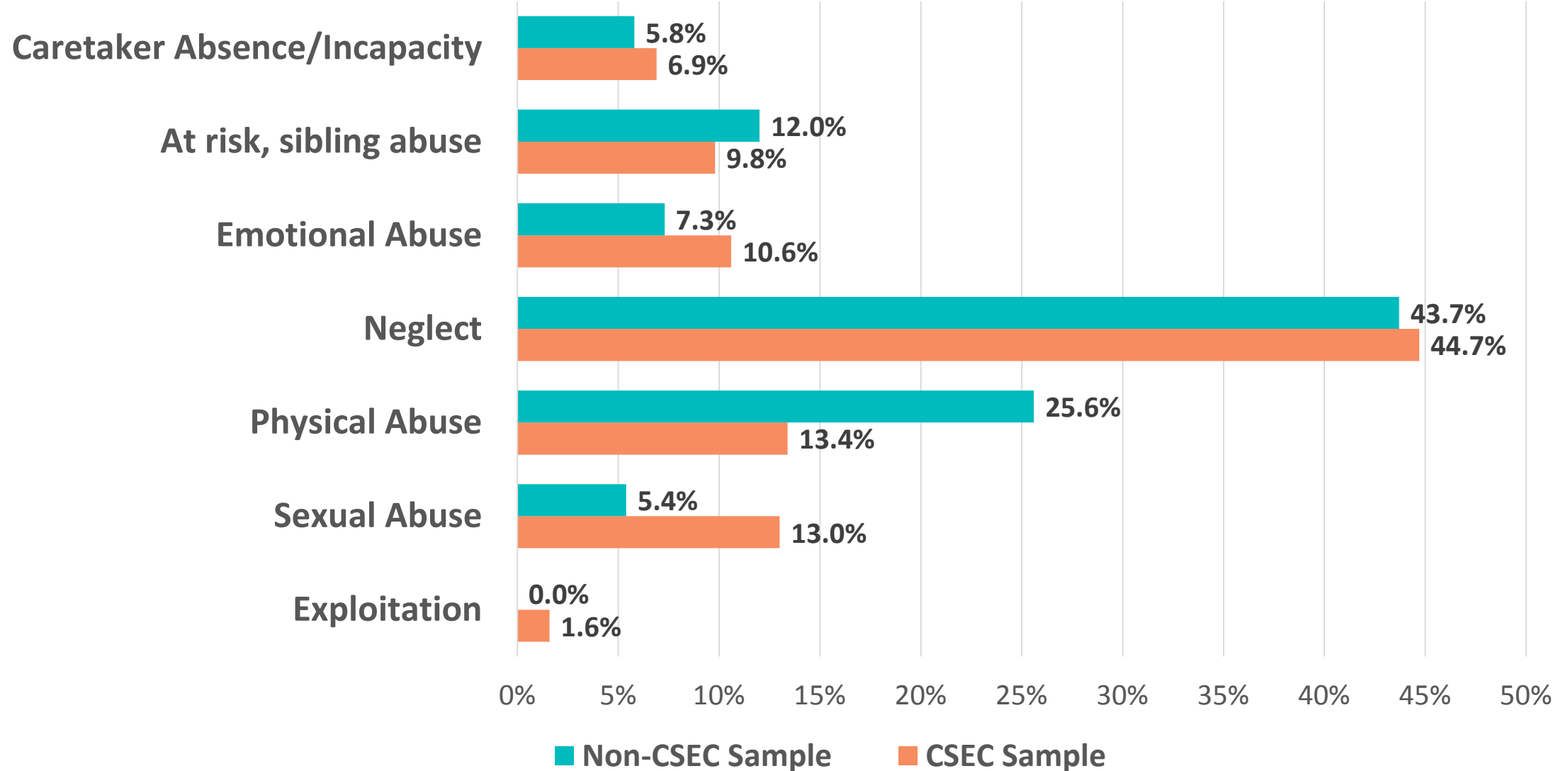
”



Survey Findings: Probation and DCFS

- 121 Girls and Young Women
- 56% were from Probation (n = 68)
- 44% were from DCFS (n = 53)
- Just over half were identified as CSEC/Y 60% (n = 73) and 40% (n = 48) were not CSEC/Y-identified

First Substantiated Allegation Type (Primary)**



Most Recent/Current Substantiated Allegations Type (Primary)***

