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TO: The Honorable Amanda Marshall, US Attorney for the District of Oregon;  
Miriam Green, Department of Human Services Oregon Child Welfare Program  
Manager; Erin Ellis, the Sexual Assault Resource Center Executive Director

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SUBJECT: Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children (CSEC) in the Portland Metro Area

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## **I. Introduction**

The purpose of this research memorandum is to quantify and analyze trends among CSEC victims in the Portland Metro Area.

Christopher Carey, PhD, JD of Portland State University and Lena Teplitsky, Portland State MPH Candidate, collected quantitative and qualitative data on documented CSEC cases in the Portland Metro Area between December 2012 and June 2013. The data includes the years 2009 through 2013. Quantifying CSEC cases will present lawmakers, social service providers and other stakeholders with data that will help to establish the scope of the problem in this geographic region, determine trends common among victim profiles, pinpoint characteristics of alleged perpetrators, and provide information regarding treatment and recovery options.

## **II. Scope:**

For the purposes of this memorandum CSEC is the ‘sexual abuse and remuneration in cash or kind to the child or a third person or persons. The child is treated as a sexual object and as a commercial object.’<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Clift, Stephen; Simon Carter (2000). *Tourism and Sex*. Cengage Learning EMEA. pp. 75–78. ISBN 1-85567-636-2.

### *A. Legal Definitions*

CSEC encompasses several crimes. Legal definitions specific to prostitution and human trafficking as they relate to child sexual abuse and exploitation include:

- **Child Trafficking:** Anytime someone under age 18 is involved in commercial sex.
- **Compelling Prostitution:** Encompasses aiding or facilitating a person under 18 years of age to engage in prostitution, inducing or causing the spouse, child or stepchild of the offender to engage in prostitution or use of force or intimidation to compel any person of any age to engage in prostitution.
- **Promoting Prostitution:** Encompasses owning, controlling, managing, supervising or otherwise maintaining a place of prostitution or prostitution enterprise, receiving or agreeing to receive money or other property derived from prostitution activity, or engaging in any conduct that instates, aids or facilitates an act or enterprise of prostitution.
- **Human Trafficking:** the recruitment, harboring, transporting, obtaining, or maintaining of a person by means of force, fraud or coercion, for purposes of involuntary servitude, debt bondage, slavery, or participation in the sex trade.

### *B. How do victims enter the system?*

Youth currently in the system have either reached out to an advocacy agency such as the Sexual Assault Resource Center (SARC), or have been referred to the Department of Human Services CSEC Unit through police reports or Multnomah County's Child Abuse Hotline. Multnomah County DHS also assumes responsibility for screening calls for the Washington and Clackamas County hotlines after business hours. While DHS receives reports from all over the state, the majority of victims reflected in DHS' data were picked up and reside in Multnomah County.

### *C. Databases Accessed*

This report draws upon data provided to the researchers by the Department of Human Services CSEC Unit and the Sexual Assault Resource Center (SARC) of Portland. The data pertains to documented CSEC cases from 2009 to 2013. The Department of Human Services' CSEC Unit works with families/youth who are sexually exploited or are victims of human trafficking. The Sexual Assault Resource Center provides confidential advocacy and case management for CSEC victims.

### III. Methodology

Researchers gathered information on all unduplicated CSEC cases on file with DHS and SARC from 2009 to 2013. Individual-level data was provided for DHS cases, while SARC provided aggregate data due to differences in reporting requirements. Interviews with DHS case managers and Erin Ellis, Executive Director of SARC, were conducted to ensure data was being properly interpreted. Researchers coded qualitative data for common themes and used STATA data analysis and statistical software to provide descriptive statistics pertaining to all documented cases.

### IV. Relevant Findings (Tabulations in Appendix)

#### A. Who are the Victims?

Between 2009-2013, **469 unduplicated CSEC victims** were identified and served by DHS & SARC in the Portland Metro Area.

As of July 2013, there are 159 open/active cases between the two agencies.

- **DHS:** Open cases have frequent contact with Child Protective Services (CPS) or permanency worker, depending on needs of the child. Cases closed when “safe finding” is established, when youth ages out of the system at age 21 and no longer needs services, or in cases where the court dismisses custody.
- **SARC:** Cases are active upon one contact. Cases marked inactive when there is no contact with victim for three months. A case may reopen at any time.
- An inactive/closed case does not imply “not trafficked.”

#### *Age of Victims*

Between 2009 and 2013, **15.5 was the average age** at which victims were referred to DHS or SARC. The youngest victim in the system was 8 years old, the oldest 22 years old. These age figures reflect age at first referral to a support agency, not age at which exploitation began to occur.

#### *Gender*

96.4% of victims are female, close to 2.8% are male, and 0.9% are transgender.

#### *Ethnicity*

40.5% of victims are Caucasian, 27.1% are African American, and 5.1% are Hispanic.

African American youth are disproportionately represented in this sample. African Americans make up 5.8% of Multnomah County’s population (2% of the state population), yet they account for 27.1% of CSEC victims<sup>2</sup>.

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<sup>2</sup> <http://quickfacts.census.gov/qfd/states/41/41051.html>

## B. Trends (DHS and SARC unless otherwise noted)

\*DHS data reflects all cases (302)

\*SARC data reflects current open cases (59)

Total: 361

Victim is:

➤ **Parent:** 16.6%

➤ **Adopted:** 8.6%

➤ **Developmentally Delayed:** 6.4%

Such information is underreported because victims are referred to mental health/IEP screenings after the initial screening process, and results rarely make it back onto the screening spreadsheet used by researchers in this analysis.

➤ **Dealing with Addiction Issues (*SARC currently open cases only*):** 62.1%

## C. Avenues of Exploitation

➤ **Gang connection**

"Gang connection" indicates that youth have either been exploited by gang members, are affiliated or members of a gang themselves, or that gang influence plays a large part in their lives.

49.1% of the 159 CSEC youth *currently served* by DHS and SARC have a gang connection.\*

\*This figure reflects cases that are currently open. Information regarding gang connections was provided to the researchers by DHS case managers, and the Executive Director of SARC.

➤ **Exploited by Family Member**

11.1% of victims have been exploited by a family member.

➤ **Family History of Exploitation**

19.9% of victims served by DHS come from families with a history of exploitation.

## **V. Participant Recommendations**

### *Residential Treatment Facility*

Of the victims currently being served by DHS, 40 have been identified by DHS case managers as likely to benefit from a 6-18 month stay in a residential treatment facility, if one were to exist. Such a solution would aim to offer these children rehabilitation and re-integration services in the least-restrictive setting for the recovery process.

### *Enhanced data collection, coordination and tracking*

DHS & SARC employees agreed that the following data points/trends are important to CSEC prevention & intervention efforts, yet not captured in the data collection process across agencies: (1) substance abuse/addiction data, (2) Crossover Youth (DHS/Oregon Youth Authority)—CSEC youth who spend time in the juvenile justice system, and (3) youth in foster care.

Goal of coordinating agencies needs to be to create solutions and opportunities for existing victims, where others can ultimately also find a way in.

There is currently no centralized database containing information about victims.

## **VI. Limitations**

Given the covert nature of crimes perpetrated against CSEC victims, cases are widely underreported. As a result, the findings in this report are very conservative. Collecting standardized data for victims is also difficult due to the highly sensitive nature of the information, as well as the perceived danger that may result from disclosure. As a result, there are wide gaps in reporting.

## **VII. Acknowledgements**

The researchers would like to thank our families, the Department of Human Services, the Sexual Assault Resource Center, Portland State University, and the United States Attorney's Office for their patience and support during this research study.

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## Appendix – Data Tables

**Total # cases (2009-2013): 469**

DHS: 302 cases

SARC: 167 cases

**Table 1: Ethnicity (SARC & DHS)**

Ethnicity	Frequency	Percent
African American	127	27.1
Asian	13	2.8
Asian American	2	0.4
Caucasian	190	40.5
Caucasian (Hispanic)	15	3.2
Caucasian (Hispanic); Native American	2	0.4
Caucasian/ African American	1	0.2
Guatemalan	1	0.2
Haitian	1	0.2
Hispanic	21	4.5
Hispanic/Latino	3	0.6
Middle Eastern	1	0.2
Native American	10	2.1
Pacific Islander	1	0.2
Peruvian/Caucasian	1	0.2
UTD	80	17.1
<b>Total</b>	<b>469</b>	<b>100</b>

\* Source of UTD (Unable to Determine) cases: 61 from SARC, 19 from DHS.

**Table 2: Number of 307s (Intake Screening Form) (DHS only)**

Number of 307s	Frequency	Percent
1	166	55.5
2	67	22.4
3	25	8.4
4	15	5.0
5	10	3.3
6	9	3.0
7	2	0.7
9	2	0.7
10	3	1.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>299</b>	<b>100</b>

\* 3 cases missing data. These cases not represented in the table.

**Table 3: Age of Entry into System (SARC & DHS)**

Age of Entry	Frequency	Percent
Missing	47	10.0
8	1	0.2
9	1	0.2
11	3	0.6
12	11	2.4
13	40	8.5
14	64	13.7
15	89	19.0
16	92	19.6
17	91	19.4
18	12	2.6
19	5	1.1
20	4	0.9
21	1	0.2
22+	8	1.7
Total	469	100

**Table 4: Average Age of Entry into System (SARC & DHS)**

	Observations	Mean
Avg. Age	422	15.5

**Table 5: Gender of Victims (SARC & DHS)**

Gender	Frequency	Percent
Female	452	96.4
Male	13	2.8
Transgender	4	0.9
Total	469	100

## TRENDS: DHS & SARC Data\*

\*DHS data reflects all cases (302)

\*SARC data reflects current open cases (59)

Total: 361 cases

**Table 6: Victim is adopted**

	Frequency	Percent
Not adopted	330	91.4
Adopted	31	8.6
Total	361	100

**Table 7: Victim has a gang connection**

	Frequency	Percent
No gang connection	81	50.9
Gang connection	78	49.1
Total	159	100

\*These numbers reflect open cases only

**Table 8: Victim exploited by a family member**

	Frequency	Percent
Not exploited by family	320	88.9
Exploited by family	40	11.1
Total	360*	100

\*1 case unknown, not represented

**Table 9: Victim's family has a history of exploitation**

	Frequency	Percent
No family history of exploitation	285	80.1
Family history of exploitation	71	19.9
Total	356*	100

\*5 cases unknown, not represented



**Table 10: Victim is a parent**

	Frequency	Percent
Not a parent	301	83.4
Parent	60	16.6
Total	361	100

**Table 11: Victim is developmentally delayed**

	Frequency	Percent
Not developmentally delayed	338	93.6
Developmentally delayed	23	6.4
Total	361	100

**Table 12: Victim struggles with addiction \*SARC data only\***

	Frequency	Percent
Does not struggle w/ addiction	22	37.9
Struggles w/ addiction	36	62.1
Total	58	100

\*1 case unknown, not represented

**Table 13: Victim has been exploited in a strip club \*DHS data only\***

	Frequency	Percent
Not exploited in strip club	298	98.7
Exploited in strip club	4	1.3
Total	302	100

**Table 14: Victim is a member of a street family \*DHS data only\***

	Frequency	Percent
Not member of street family	298	98.7
Member of street family	4	1.3
Total	302	100