

Journal of the Georgia Public Health Association

Volume 7 | Number 1

Article 44

Summer 2017

A Screening tool for Identification of Victims of Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children

Follow this and additional works at: <https://digitalcommons.georgiasouthern.edu/jgpha>



Part of the [Public Health Commons](#)

Recommended Citation

Livings, Michelle; Greenbaum, Jordan; Lewis, Rayleen; Williams, Jeremiah D.; Self-Brown, Shannon; and Lai, Betty S. (2017) "A Screening tool for Identification of Victims of Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children," *Journal of the Georgia Public Health Association*: Vol. 7 : No. 1 , Article 44.

DOI: 10.21633/jgpha.7.145

Available at: <https://digitalcommons.georgiasouthern.edu/jgpha/vol7/iss1/44>

This conference abstract is brought to you for free and open access by the Journals at Digital Commons@Georgia Southern. It has been accepted for inclusion in Journal of the Georgia Public Health Association by an authorized administrator of Digital Commons@Georgia Southern. For more information, please contact digitalcommons@georgiasouthern.edu.

A Screening tool for Identification of Victims of Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children

Authors

Michelle Livings, Jordan Greenbaum, Rayleen Lewis, Jeremiah D. Williams, Shannon Self-Brown, and Betty S. Lai

Conference Abstract

A screening tool for identification of victims of commercial sexual exploitation of children

Michelle Sarah Livings, BS¹, Jordan Greenbaum, MD², Rayleen Lewis, MPH³, Jeremiah D. Williams, BA¹, Shannon Self-Brown, PhD¹, and Betty S. Lai, PhD¹

¹Georgia State University School of Public Health; ²Stephanie Blank Center for Safe and Healthy Children, Children's Healthcare of Atlanta; ³ORISE Fellow, National Center for Immunization and Respiratory Disease at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

Corresponding author: Michelle Sarah Livings, BS • Georgia State University School of Public Health • 33 Gilmer Street SE, Atlanta, GA 30303 • 862-754-8990 • mlivings1@student.gsu.edu

Background: Commercial sexual exploitation of children (CSEC) and sex trafficking have only recently been recognized as problems by healthcare providers. Both UNICEF (2014) and the Institute of Medicine (2013) have stressed the need for systematic research to assist healthcare providers in the identification of victims. The aim of this poster is to describe initial findings relating to the development of a screening tool to identify CSEC victims.

Methods: Twenty-seven sites nationwide (e.g., emergency departments and specialized clinics) participated in a study to validate a screening tool for identifying CSEC victims in an outpatient setting. The study was conducted under approval from the Institutional Review Board at Children's Healthcare of Atlanta. Inclusion criteria for the study generally involved being an English-speaking adolescent aged 11-18 years.

Results: Study enrollment is ongoing. Preliminary data for 210 youth were analyzed for this abstract. The sample was diverse with respect to age ($M=14.59$ years, $SD=1.490$ years) and ethnicity (56.4% Caucasian, 31.8% African American, 3.9% mixed race, and 7.8% Hispanic); the sample was predominantly female (92.8%). Of the 210 youth in the sample, 115(54.8%) have had sex. Of these 115 youth, 13(11.3%) have traded sex for money, drugs, or housing; 7(58.3%) of 12(10.4%) complied when asked by someone to have sex with another person; 8(61.5%) of 13(11.3%) performed sexual acts in public when propositioned; and 19(45.2%) of 42(36.5%) shared provocative photos when prompted. Medical providers flagged 14 youth (6.7% of total 210) as potential CSEC victims.

Conclusions: The screening tool shows promise for effective identification of CSEC victims. This poster will present additional data and further quantitative analyses exploring the influences of sexual behavior, drug and alcohol use, and other factors on the risk of becoming a CSEC victim. Implications for researchers and clinicians will also be discussed.

Key words: commercial sexual exploitation of children; screening tool

<https://doi.org/10.21633/jgpha.7.145>

© Michelle Sarah Livings, Jordan Greenbaum, Rayleen Lewis, Jeremiah D. Williams, Shannon Self-Brown, and Betty S. Lai. Originally published in jGPHA (<http://www.gapha.org/jgpha/>) December 20, 2017. This is an open-access article distributed under the terms of the Creative Commons Attribution Non-Commercial No-Derivatives License (<http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/>), which permits unrestricted use, distribution, and reproduction in any medium, provided the original work ("first published in the Journal of the Georgia Public Health Association...") is properly cited with original URL and bibliographic citation information. The complete bibliographic information, a link to the original publication on <http://www.gapha.jgpha.org/>, as well as this copyright and license information must be included.