



Sexually Exploited Children Screening Protocol

Best Practice: The SBHC will routinely screen students for sexual exploitation in order to pursue appropriate interventions and support. Sexually exploited children (SEC) exchange sex to have their basic needs met (e.g. food, clothing, shelter, care). Commercially sexually exploited children (CSEC) exchange sex so that a third party can profit from the sale of their body. In our community, the number of CSEC is increasing, while the average age of first victimization continues to decrease. SBHCs play a crucial role in the identification of SEC and CSEC, recognize these youth as victims, not criminals, and strive to link exploited youth with direct services in the community.

Procedure:

Note: Limits of confidentiality should be discussed with all students before administering Teen Screen and performing HEADSS assessment.

Screening and Intervention:

Universal screening: The following question appears on the Teen Screen questionnaire that is completed by every student who visits the SBHC:

“Over the years, we've noticed that more and more youth are turning to the streets to make money for themselves for for other people. Have you ever or do you trade sex or "going on dates" for money, clothes, a place to stay, or drugs?”

If **negative** response and **no high risk indicators** (see Appendix), no further action needed.

Positive responses must be discussed with the student, see **Intervention** below.

High risk screening: Students aged 10-18 years who exhibit *two or more high risk indicators* (see Appendix) should be verbally screened for SEC as follows:

“Over the years, we’ve noticed that more and more young people are turning to the streets to make money for themselves or for other people. Sometimes students tell us that they’re trading sex or ‘going on dates’ for money, clothes, a place to stay, or drugs. Other students say they’ve been asked or forced to let other people do sexual things to them. Has this ever happened to you or to a friend?”

If **negative** response, note in student’s chart. No further action necessary.

If **questionable** response, note need for follow-up at next visit.

If **positive** response, follow **Intervention** steps.

Intervention:

1. Fill out referral form (see Appendix) and contact MISSEY (510-251-2072)
2. Inform student that MISSEY will call and make appointment to discuss resources
3. Fill out Child Protective Services report form (see Appendix), call and fax in
4. If behavioral staff available at SBHC, perform warm hand-off to counselor
5. Provide ongoing care and coordination with behavioral health provider

High Risk Indicators for Sexual Exploitation

- Frequent and consistent requests for sexually transmitted infection (STI) screenings
- Frequent diagnosis of STIs
- Sexually active adolescents < 13 y.o. with >2 lifetime or casual sexual partners
- Patients who are coming in >2 other patients with same signs or symptoms of STIs
- Chronic truancy issues
- Not living at home, living with “boyfriend”
- Homelessness issues
- > 10 lifetime or casual partners
- History of sexual abuse