

Running is the Issue: Preventing Running Away While Eliminating Secure Detention

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Who is in the room?

- Community Based Service Providers
- Child Welfare
- Juvenile Justice
- Law Enforcement
- Research/evaluation teams
- Teachers/educators
- Faith Community
- Other Providers

Agenda

- Setting the context: the youth we're talking about
- Legal and Cultural Landscape
- Administrative Data
- (Very Brief) Research Review
- Interventions
- So What Might Help?

“Jonathan”

- 17 year old male, close to 18th birthday
- Has a serious infection from IV drug use
- Youth has primarily been on the run for the past three years

“Maria”

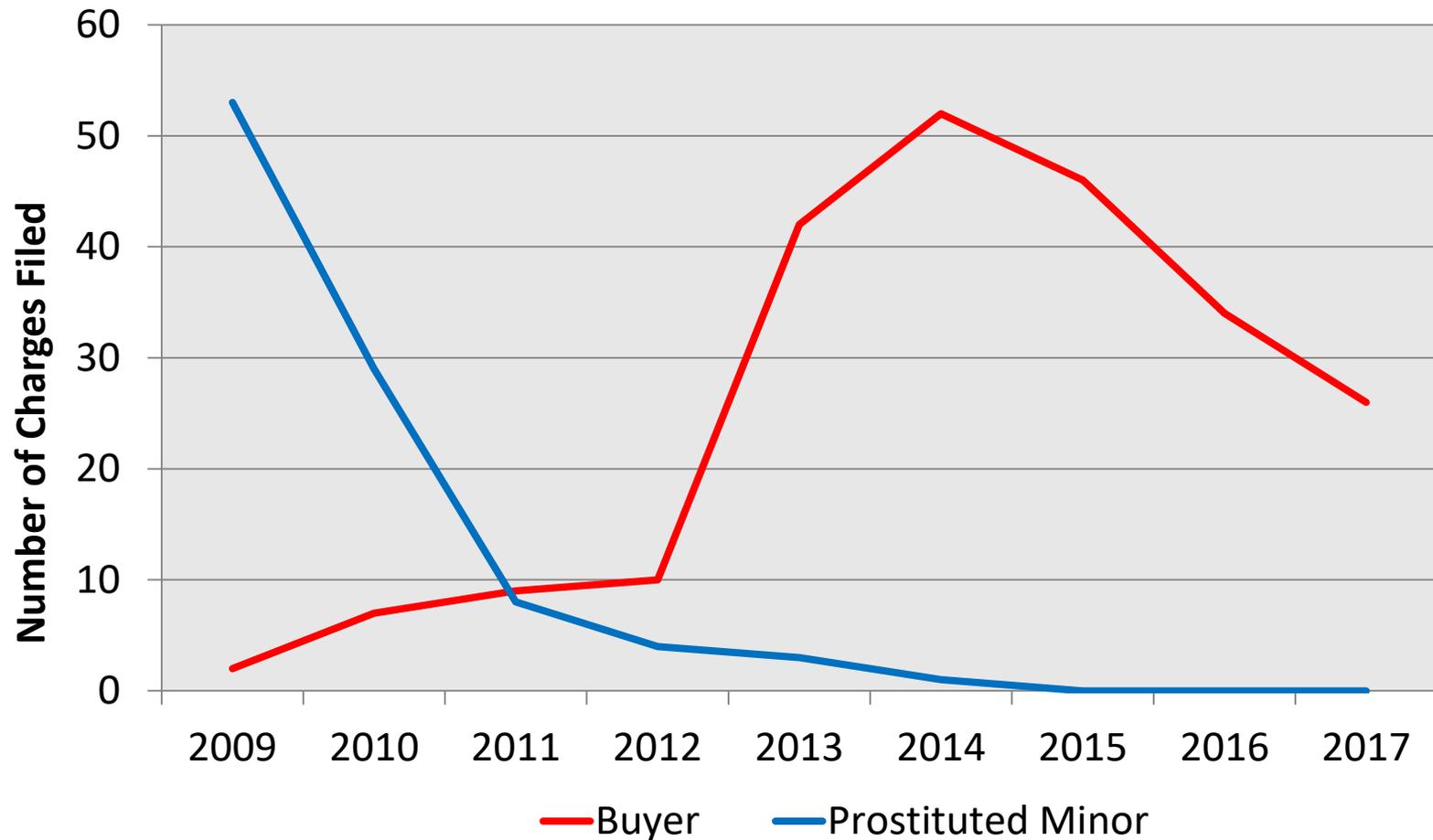
- 14 year old female
- Living on the street for 1½ years
- Primary support is a 25 year old male. Youth denies a sexual relationship, but providers suspect otherwise

Legal and Cultural Landscape

Legal - Cultural Landscape in Washington State

- **BECCA**
 - Truancy
 - ARY (At Risk Youth)
 - CHINS (Child In Need of Services)
- **TREATMENT**
 - Age 13
 - No locked therapeutic treatment model in the state
 - Excluding involuntary commitment and JRA (criminal justice)
- **COMMUNITY CONSIDERATIONS**
 - Zero Youth Detention Movement
 - Minimizing Use of Run Warrants
- **ARREST**
 - Rare to arrest on Prostitution
 - No charged Prostitution since 2014

The passage of safe harbor laws led to a dramatic reduction of youth charges and an increase in charges against buyers of youth.



• Source: King County Prosecutor's Office

Administrative Data

Purpose

- Describe the system involvement of youth identified as commercially sexually exploited or at high risk of CSE by Department of Children, Youth, and Families
- Though there is great variability, in general we found that these youth are characterized by:
 - Many referrals to DCYF, often beginning at an early age
 - Frequent placement changes, crisis treatment and runaway event
 - Early and frequent juvenile detention episodes
 - Difficulty engaging in Bridge Collaborative services

Data Sources

- Bridge Collaborative agencies
- King County Juvenile Court
- Department of Children, Youth, and Families
- Washington State Center on Court Research

Methods

- Between January, 2015 and January, 2017, 83 youth were identified by Department of Children, Youth, and Families Regions 3 & 4
- **Important:**
 - All youth were state dependent and placed out-of-home at least once.
 - This is NOT a population estimate of the number of commercially sexually exploited children in the region or the state!

Demographics of 83 Youth Identified within DCYF

	Frequency N=83	%	% foster care pop aged 15-18 N=1,838
Race			
White/Caucasian	37	44.6%	46.2%
Multiracial	17	20.5%	19.1%
Black/African American	16	19.3%	12.0%
Hispanic White	11	13.3%	14.4%
American Indian/Alaskan Native	6	7.2%	4.4%
Asian/Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander	2	2.4%	3.8%
Gender			
Female	74	89.2%	60.2%
Male	9	10.8%	39.8%

Data Summary Part 1

- Early involvement in child welfare (**average age of first referral = 5.5**)
- An average of **27 living situation changes** while in child welfare
- Average length of stay for any single living situation about 2 months
- Approximately **90% ran away** from a child welfare placement at least once

Data Summary Part 2

- Age of first runaway event from child welfare was **14.2** years
- Age of first detention episode was **14.3** years
- Of those who ran away, the **average number of runaway episodes was nearly 9**
- **Runaway episodes made up nearly 19% of the total number of days** that CSEC youth were in the care of child welfare

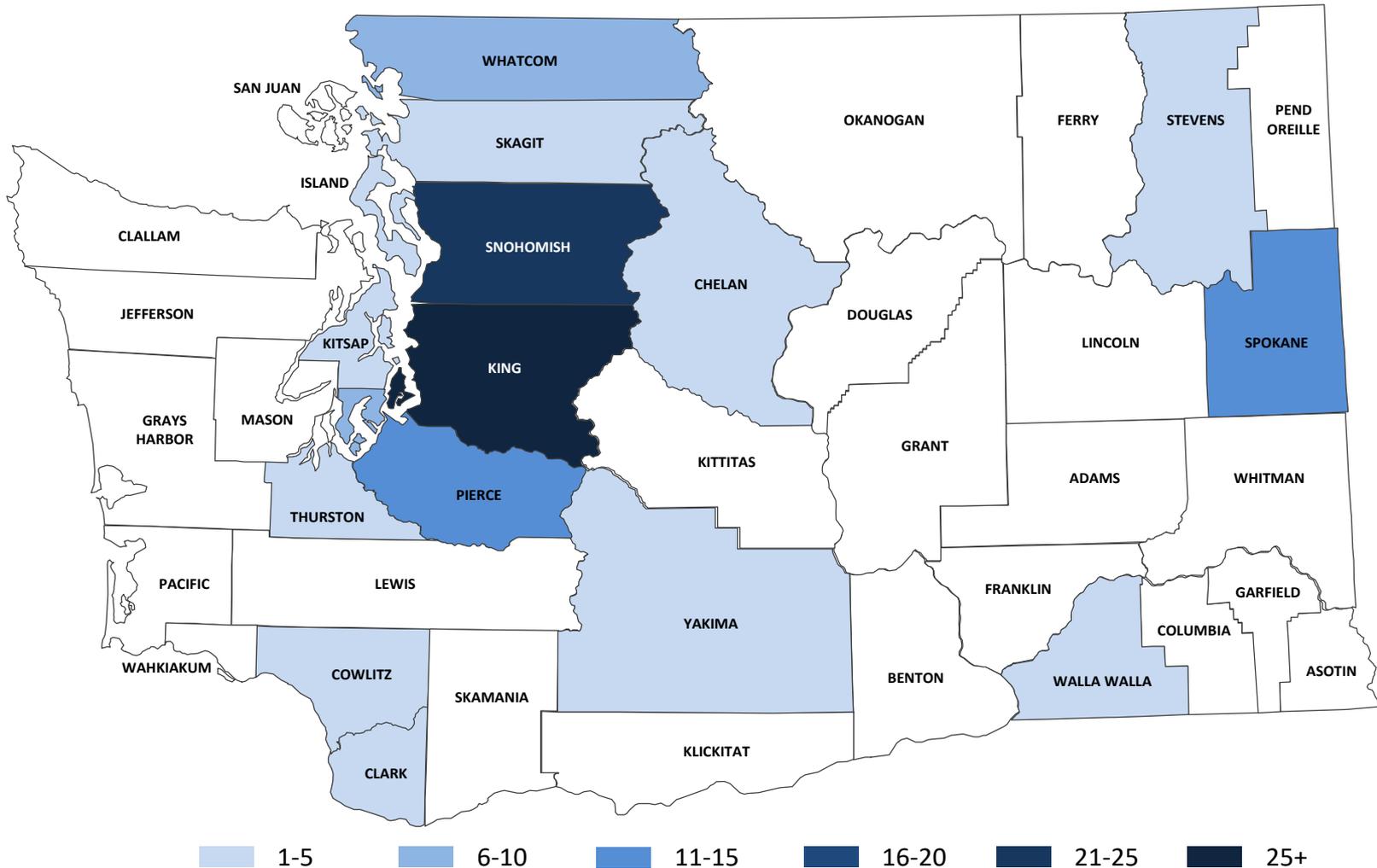
Data Summary Part 3

- **76% had at least one juvenile detention episode.** Of those youth, the average number of detention episodes was 9
- Though youth were in the care of Child Welfare in King County, 67% of those with a detention episode had at least one detention episode in another county

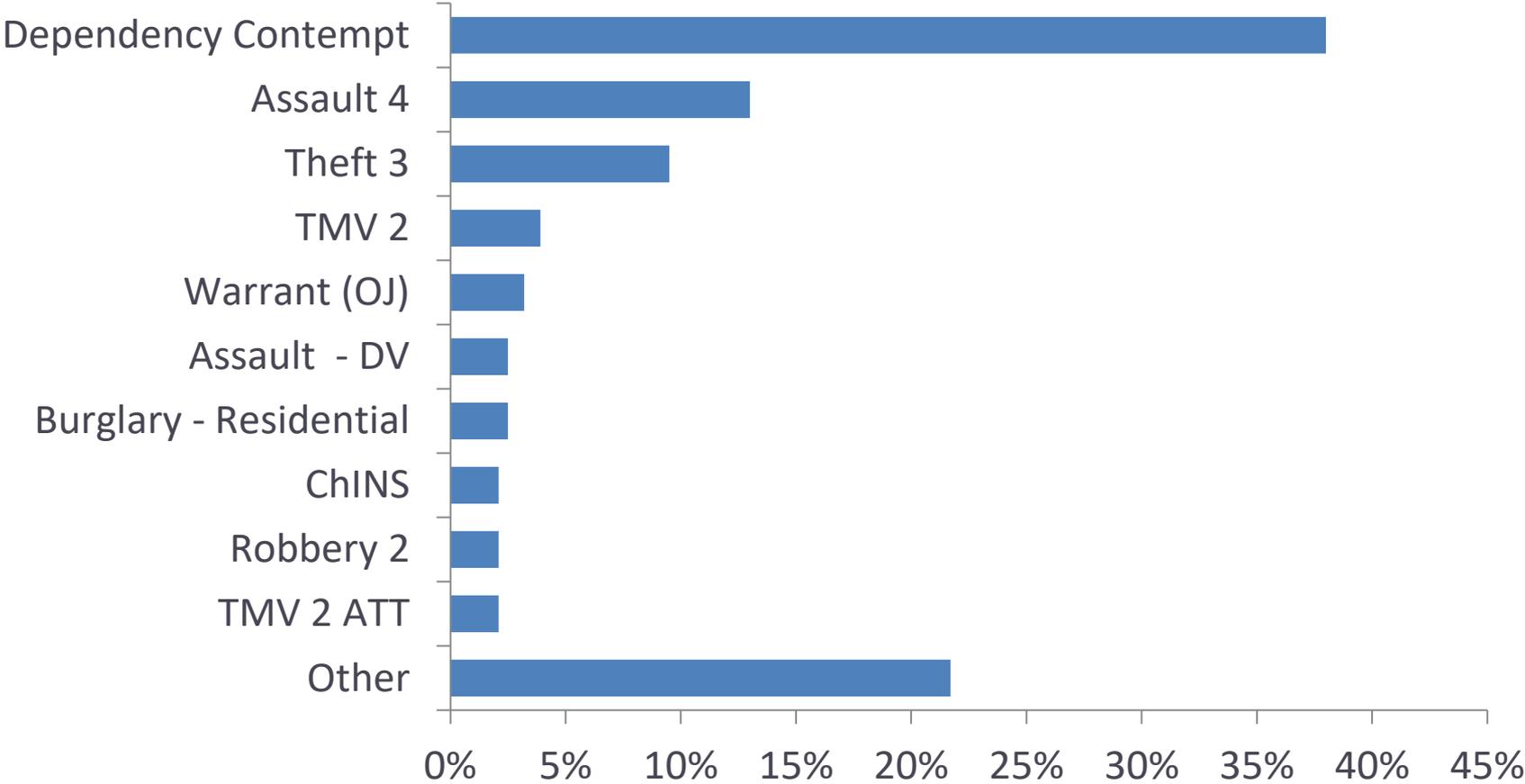
Placement Event Days by Episode Type for all Youth on all Total Days

Placement Event	N	Percent
Foster Home/Receiving Home	25,652	23.0%
Relative (Not Receiving Foster Care Payments)	21,630	19.4%
On The Run	20,824	18.7%
Group Home	9,355	8.4%
Group Care – Staff Residential	6,921	6.2%
Detention (Short Term)	4,320	3.9%
Therapeutic Foster Home – BRS/CHAPS Contract MTSC	3,908	3.5%
Court Ordered Unlicensed	3,837	3.4%
Adoptive Home	3,442	3.1%
Supervised Independent Living	2,634	2.4%
Hospital	1,874	1.7%
Other	6,920	6.2%

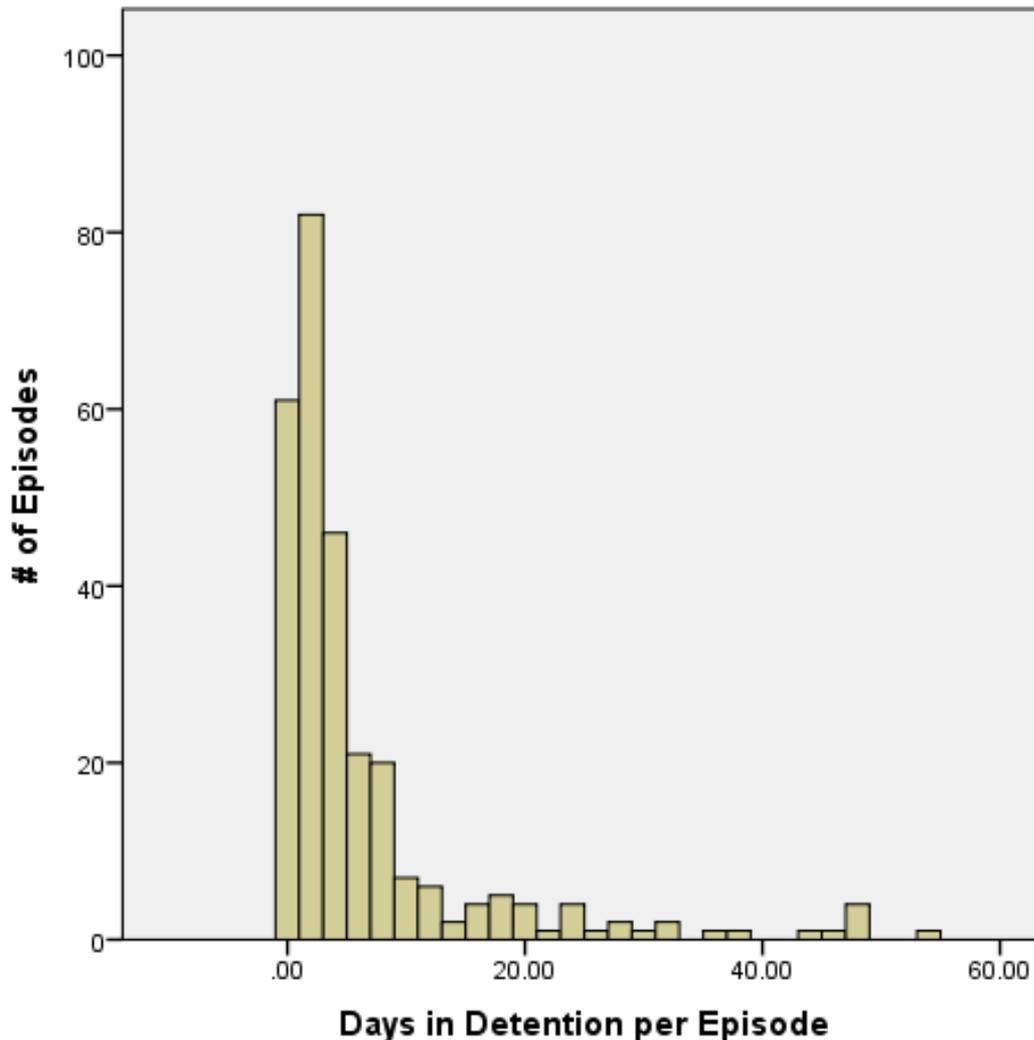
Number of Unique Youth Detained by County

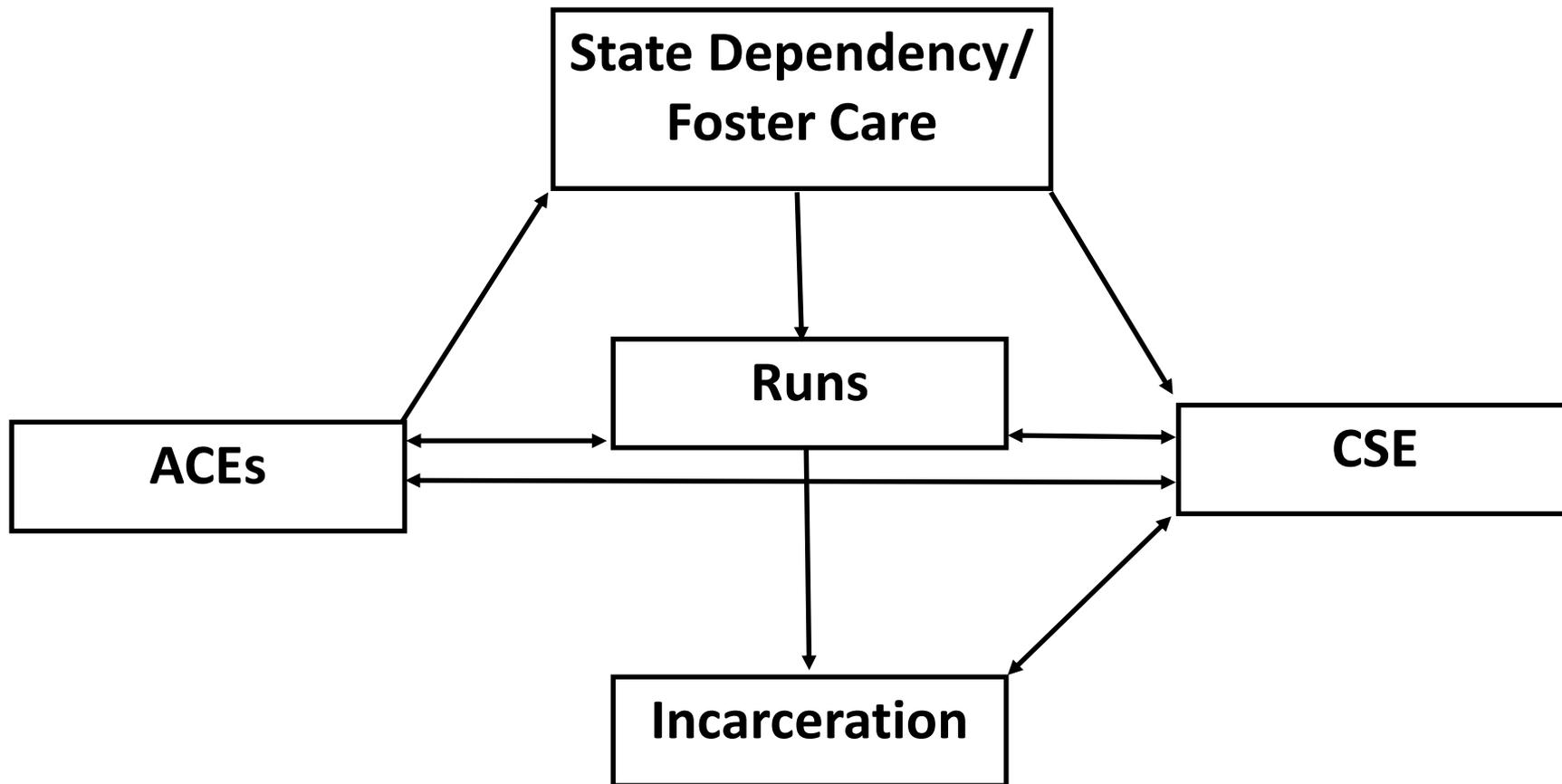


Detention Admission for All King County Detention Episodes - Original Offense



Average Length of Detention Stay is Very Short





(Very Brief) Research Review

Understanding Running

- Running to something or running from something (Crosland et al., 2018)
- Push and Pull Factors (Briner, 2010)
- Clark et al. (2008) found a significant decrease in running behavior via an intervention which first determined the reason for the running behavior and then involved the youth in creating a tailored run prevention plan

Detention has Unintended Consequences

STUDY:

- 20-year study. 79 low-income youth.
- Annual interviews from age 10 to age 17, then tracked their arrest records in adulthood.
- Researchers interviewed the teenagers' parents, schoolmates and teachers.
- Accounted for variables such as family income, single-parent-home status and earlier behavior problems (such as hyperactivity) that are known to affect delinquency risk.

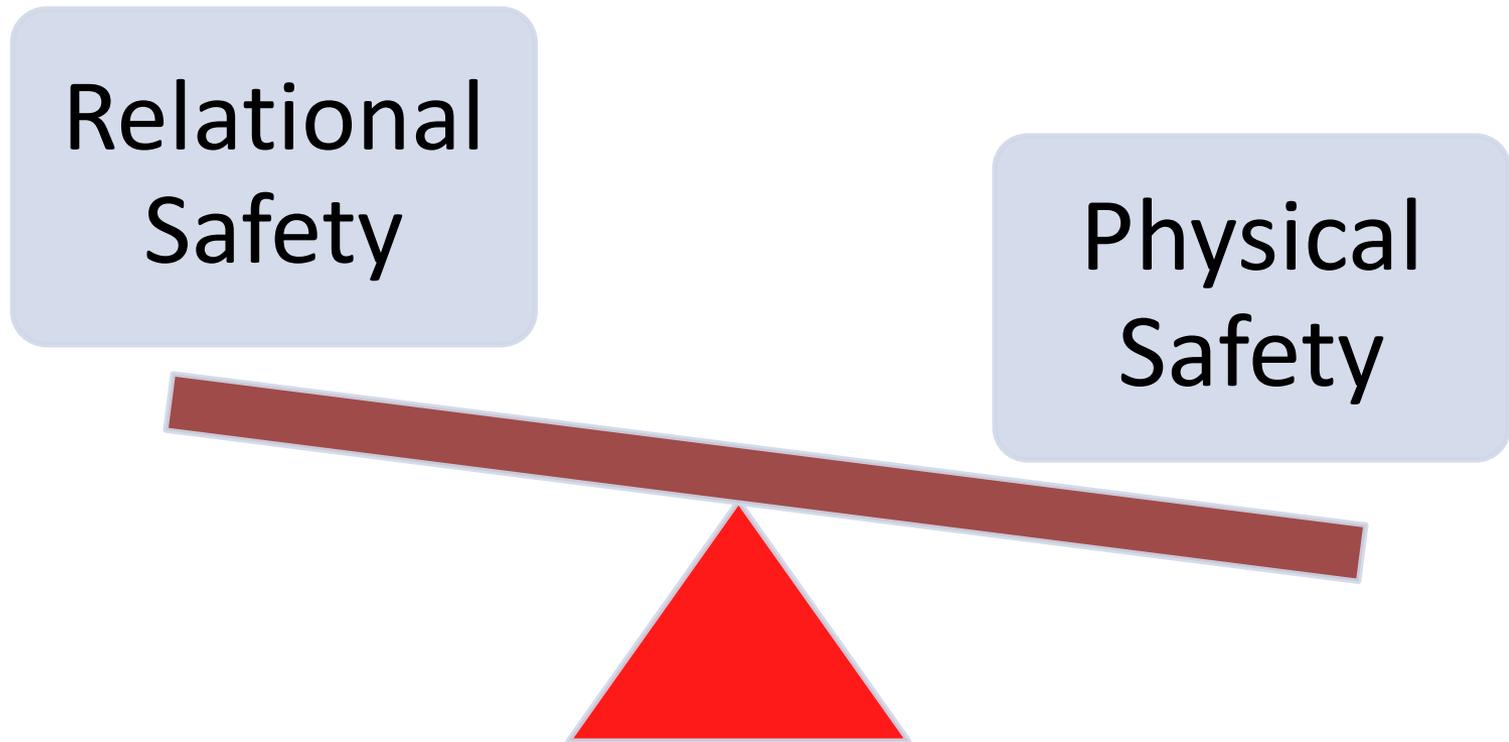
FINDINGS:

- Kids who entered the juvenile-justice system even briefly — for example, being sentenced to community service or other penance, with limited exposure to other troubled kids — were **twice as likely to be arrested as adults**, compared with kids with the same behavior problems who remained outside the system. Being put on probation, which involves more contact with misbehaving peers, in counseling groups or even in waiting rooms at probation offices, **raised teens' odds of adult arrest by a factor of 14.**

Gatti, Uberto, Richard E. Tremblay and F. Vitaro. "Iatrogenic effect of juvenile justice." *Journal of child psychology and psychiatry, and allied disciplines* 50 8 (2009): 991-8.

Defining Safety

- **Physical** - freedom from physical harm, all basic needs being met.
- **Psychological and Emotional** - free from mental and emotional harm including coercion, manipulation, humiliation or any other assault on a person's dignity or self-worth.
- **Financial**- having consistent and adequate access to financial resources that do not rely on economic strategies that cause harm.
- **Community/Environmental**- the community and environment are free from harm, violence or degradation from the state, corporations, other agents, or community members.



“At the very moment when some professionals felt relieved that a child at high risk was now finally in a physically safe place (a specialist or out of borough placement), the child themselves often felt relationally ‘unsafe’, unanchored, isolated and highly anxious about these new placements.”

(Shuker, 2013)

So what might help?

**Bridge Collaborative
DCYF Missing from Care Team
ConnectUP**



YouthCare works to end youth homelessness and to ensure that young people are valued for who they are and empowered to achieve their potential

Programs include:

- Outreach and Basic Needs
 - Emergency Shelter
 - Housing
 - Education
 - Employment Training
 - Prevention
-
- Services for young people experiencing trafficking
 - Family engagement
 - Support in schools
 - Case Management for youth with experiences in the Detention system

Bridge Collaborative (BC)

The Bridge Collaborative is a **coordinated effort** across five organizations to provide a **quick response** to young people who have been sexually exploited, and those at high-risk for exploitation.

Community Advocates provide case management, support, resources, and referrals to youth and young adults, ages 12-24, across King County.



Key Components of the Community Advocate Role

- Long-term services
- Community-based model
- Positive, consistent presence
- Young people develop goals that they work toward with the support of the advocate
- Non-judgmental, harm reduction approach
- Collaborate with family
- Coordinate services with other providers

Youth served by Bridge Collaborative show improvements from intake to 270 days later

- Housing stability increased from 19% of youth served to 60% of youth served
- Consistently safe housing increased from 58% to 90%
- Youth initiating reach-out to the community advocate increased from 55% to 95%
- Those with consistent contact with the community advocate increased from 33% to 67%

WA State Missing From Care (MFC) Team

- All children/youth who have histories of multiple runs and/or are especially vulnerable are assigned a MFC Locator
- Locators work full time to locate missing state dependent children/youth
- Locators meet with children/youth very quickly upon their return to care to complete a run debrief and a run prevention plan



Current and future program elements as of Fall 2018

Services

CSEC Placements

**ConnectUp
case consult**

**Supports for any
CSEC caregiver**
*(includes parents, family
members, suitable other,
foster, etc.)*

See handout for Programmatic Details

Scenarios

“Jonathan”

- Youth is 17 going to turn 18 soon has mostly been on the run since she was 14
- He has a serious infection from IV drug use and a medical condition that requires treatment ASAP
- There are allegations that he was trafficked by parents in early teens/tween years
- Youth has been accepted for long term inpatient treatment for minors but he can stay after he turns 18 if he enters as a minor –still need medical exam and TB test to go
- At times youth says he wants to go to treatment but has always run again before he can get there. Most recently he says does not want to go
- Youth has run soon after detention every time he has been there in the past
- The one place that youth stayed for any amount of time was with a family member but that family member will no longer allow him in their home
- Youth has at times connected with advocates but he has either bounced between counties (AKA service provider boundary areas) and/or advocates have left their positions

“Maria”

- Youth is 14. She has been on run for the most part for 1.5 years.
- She is known to hang out nearly constantly with a 25-year-old. The youth and the 25-year-old report they are not in a sexual relationship but service provider suspect that is not the case and are concerned that Maria may be trading sex in order to provide basic necessities for herself and the 25 year old.
- When arrested on a dependency warrant in the past, the youth has run as soon as she has been released from detention.
- The youth regularly stops into a local homeless youth drop in center for food, showers, and other needs. When there she engages with staff.
- Staff at the drop in center are in communication with the youth’s social worker. In the past when the youth has had an active run warrant staff have called the police and the youth has been arrested at the drop in center.
- Drop in center staff are concerned for this child’s safety and are looking to the department for direction as to whether to call police every time this youth accesses services or to instead just continue to engage with the youth and be in contact with her social worker.

Running is the issue

