

Child Welfare & York University Research Partnership

2012 Partnership Begins

Researchers partner with child welfare directors to identify ways universities can support agency goals and help improve the well-being of youth involved in the child welfare system.

Forty-four female youth involved with child welfare shared their experiences of relationships with caregivers, friends, and romantic partners

2014 Romantic Relationships & Resilience

Police noticed that all youth and adult survivors of sex trafficking they supported had previous contact with child welfare. They brought this to the attention of Children's Aid Societies, prompting a collaborative study to better understand this link.

2016 Police Join Partnership

After reviewing 223 case files, youth involved with child welfare were found to be at higher risk of sex trafficking—often recruited before age 18, with histories of maltreatment, substance use, and group-home placement.

2017 Police File Reviews Exploring Sex Trafficking Experiences

The START with the YOUTH (STAR-Y) program was developed for youth in child welfare who are at risk of sex trafficking. This exploratory model provided trauma therapy and behavioural interventions and was evaluated using a case study approach.

2018 Specialized Therapeutic Foster Care for Victims of Sex Trafficking

This two-part project developed the York-Simcoe Sex Trafficking Screener (YST). Child welfare experts identified and refined items for the tool, which was then evaluated for validity and reliability in identifying youth at risk of sex trafficking.

2021 Developing the York-Simcoe Sex Trafficking Screener (YST)