



How do I use the YST ?

 York-Simcoe Sex Trafficking Screener (YST)

Screen for sex trafficking risk quickly and clearly

Responses are not saved on this website. Local saving options are available, subject to your agency procedure.

Takes approximately 10–15 minutes to complete.

 **What results you'll get**

- **ST Exploitation Warning Signs score** – indicates that a young person may be experiencing trafficking-related exploitation or harms now.
- **ST Recruitment Warning Signs score** – indicates that a young person may be targeted, groomed, or at increased risk of recruitment.

These scores support—rather than replace—your clinical judgement and safety planning. They are not a diagnosis.


Prior to starting screener, be aware of these known groups at increased risk [More info](#)

- Youth is from a racialized background.
- Youth is from an indigenous background.
- Youth has a developmental disability.
- Youth identifies as LGBTQ+.

This context should be considered alongside—but not replace—the item-by-item judgments in the screener.

Start screener

Select to start

 York-Simcoe Sex Trafficking Screener (YST)

Screening items

Takes approximately 10–15 minutes to complete.

For each item listed below, using your clinical judgement, please check one of the following options:

No Info Information not available to make a judgment.	No Information available and definitively not present.
Maybe Information available and might be present.	Yes Information available and definitively present.

1. Youth is financially stable (e.g., has stable housing, caregiver is able to provide, children, pets, family obligations are met, is not being forced to give their money to someone)

☐ No Info ☐ No ☐ Maybe ☐ Yes

2. Youth has past or current involvement with the justice system (e.g., contact with police, involvement with criminal activities)

☐ No Info ☐ No ☐ Maybe ☐ Yes

Progress

0/32 answered 0%


Track your progress here

Select one response for each question

Click submit

Submit & View Results

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Screener Results

Results are not saved. Print/save a PDF or record outcomes per agency procedure before leaving or refreshing. Use the button at the bottom of the page.


Summary

This youth is presenting with a significant number of exploitation warning signs placing them at a very elevated risk of sex trafficking involvement. Please follow agency guidelines and seek immediate support for the youth.

Use clinical judgement and local safety procedures. Scores support—not replace—professional decision-making.

The summary section indicates a youth's overall level of risk and next steps

ST Exploitation Warning Signs

 **Very Elevated Risk** Ratings on this scale indicate that the youth presents with more exploitation warning signs than 90% of other youth involved with child welfare.

Low Slightly Elevated Elevated **Very Elevated**


Confirmed risk items

- Youth has gang affiliation/contact (e.g., tattoos suggestive of branding or gang insignia).
- Youth hitch-hikes or travels in cars with unknown individuals (e.g., receives or solicits drives from unknown individuals/strangers, has Ubers sent to them, has a driver).
- Youth reports exchanging sex for money or material goods
- Youth has large amounts of unexplained cash, or expensive items (e.g., new purses, shoes, technical devices, gift cards, groceries being assisted by strangers).
- Youth has several cell phones

These are the Exploitation Warning Signs you've responded "yes" to

The Exploitation Warning Signs section indicates the range of ST exploitation risk a youth falls into based on their score.

ST Recruitment Warning Signs

 **Very Elevated Risk** Ratings on this scale indicate that the youth presents with more recruitment warning signs than 90% of other youth involved with child welfare.

Low Slightly Elevated Elevated **Very Elevated**

Confirmed risk items

- Youth has peer relationships that appear unsafe (e.g., peers who are a negative influence, significantly older peers, unstable peer group) and/or experiences social exclusion.
- Youth describes basic needs as being unmet (e.g., financially and/or emotionally)
- Youth has sporadic school attendance (e.g., skips multiple days or is not attending, attends to solicit other youth).
- Youth presents a significant and sudden change in appearance (e.g., dress, hygiene, weight)

The Recruitment Warning Signs section indicates the range of ST recruitment risk a youth falls into based on their score.

These are the Recruitment Warning Signs you've responded "yes" to

How do I use the YST ?

click

Items marked "No Info" or "Maybe" (investigate)

- Youth has been exposed to an abusive or controlling intimate partner
- Youth is connected to people who are exploited (i.e., trafficked), who buy or sell sex or who are known/suspected to be sex traffickers.
- Youth uses language related to sex trafficking (e.g., "the game")
- Youth runs away/is gone and their whereabouts are unknown (e.g., for long periods of time, frequently for short durations, unexplained absence).
- Youth frequents hotel rooms and/or has hotel key cards in their possession.
- Youth is financially stable (e.g., has stable housing, caregiver is able to provide, children, pets, family obligations are met, is not being forced to give their money to someone)
- Parent/caregiver is unable to provide adequate supervision
- Youth appears on edge, preoccupied with safety, or hypervigilant.
- Youth presents with self-harming behaviour and/or expresses suicidal ideation (i.e., thoughts about dying or ending life)
- Youth presents with substance use difficulties (e.g., appears to be under the influence, found with alcohol/drugs)
- Youth has past or current involvement with the justice system (e.g., contact with police, involvement with criminal activities)
- Youth lives outside of family/caregiver home (e.g., stays overnight at friends for extended time, periods of homelessness, unstable housing, with a boy/girlfriend), lives independently and/or is being housed by someone who is paying for their living expenses.

Print / Save PDF

Tip: expand dropdowns before printing so all items appear on the PDF.

These are items you've responded "No Info" or "Maybe" to

Have a look. Are there items you can get more information about?

The more information you have, the more accurately you can determine a youths level of risk

Click to print or save

Remember the YST is not saved. If you don't print or save you lose your results.

Screener Results

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Summary

Screener on Oct 16, 2025, 4:37 PM • This printout is generated from a device-only session.

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ST Exploitation Warning Signs

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* Confirmed risk items

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ST Recruitment Warning Signs

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2 pages

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