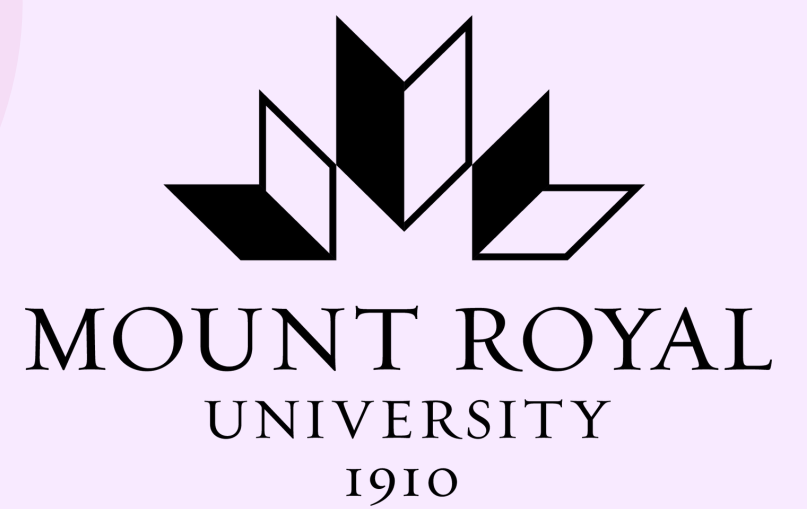


# SEXUALLY EXPLOITED YOUTH IN GROUP CARE: A REVIEW OF TREATMENT MODELS & POLICIES

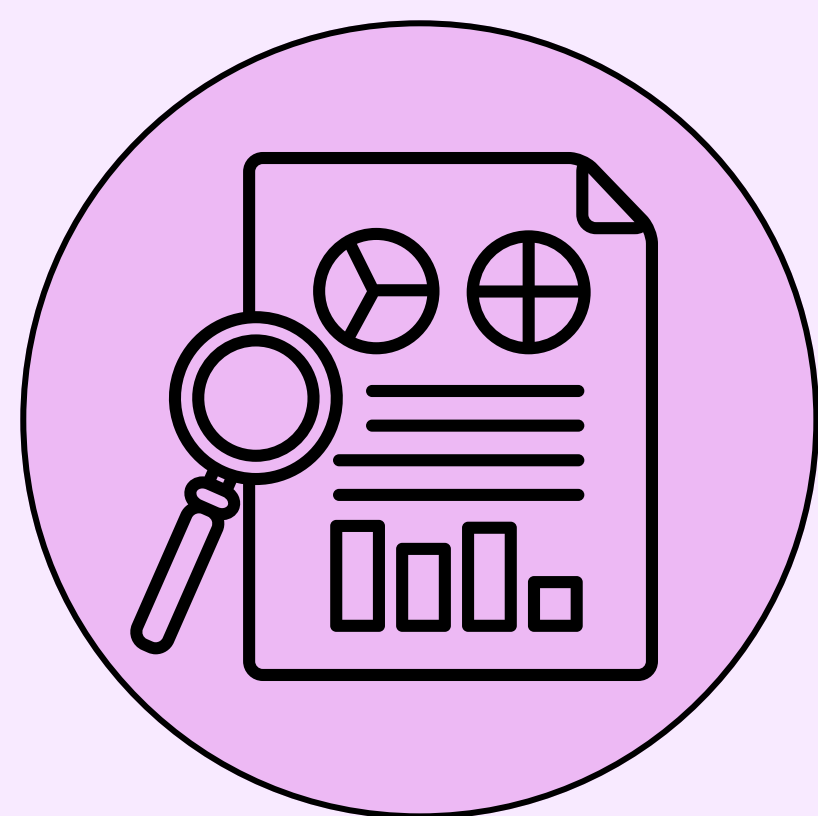
MCKENZIE THOMPSON  
WITH  
FACULTY ADVISOR DR. D. SCHARIE TAVCER  
CRIMINAL JUSTICE DEGREE PROGRAM



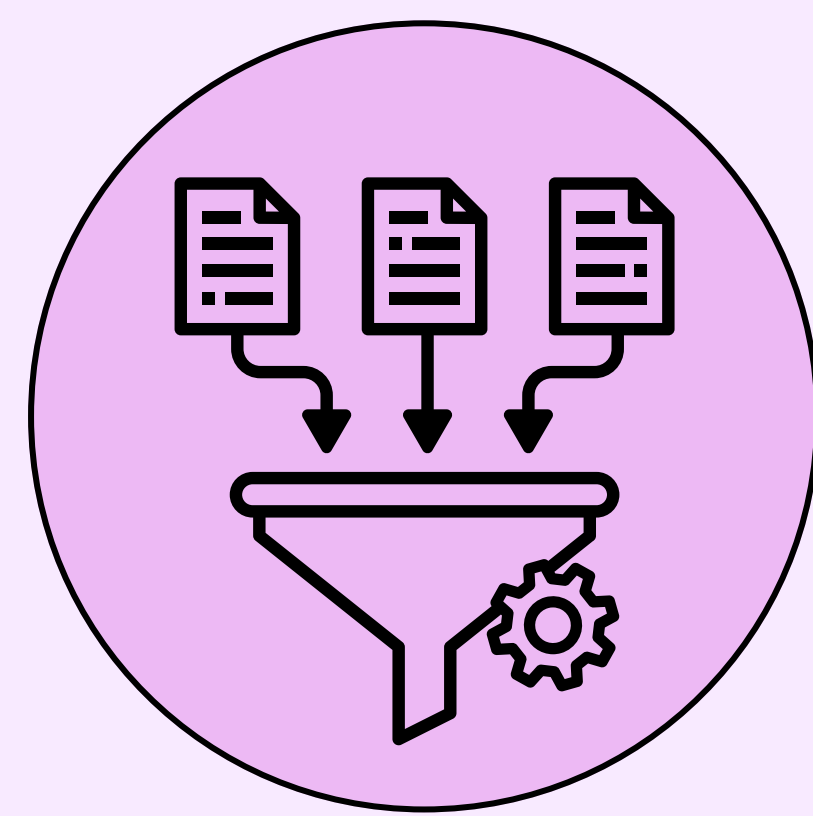
## INTRODUCTION

- This review **examines** sexually exploited youth in group care from a Canadian perspective.
- The **focus** was on treatment models and intervention programming available for at risk youth and sexually exploited youth in group care, the perspective of child sexual exploitation, and risk factors.
- **Youth in group care are a specifically vulnerable population:** they are often unhoused, without persistent caregivers, and under trauma and stress. They also have more freedom and responsibility and are provided with more privileges, fewer restrictions, community access, and the opportunity to attend neighbourhood schools.
- The **significance** of this research lies not only in its potential to inform policymakers but also in its ability to foster a safe and supportive environment for sexually exploited youth in care.

## METHODOLOGY



**Exploratory & Descriptive Research**



**Data sources** were gathered via Google Scholar, MRU's library, open-source repositories, and intervention websites.



**Integrative Literature Review**



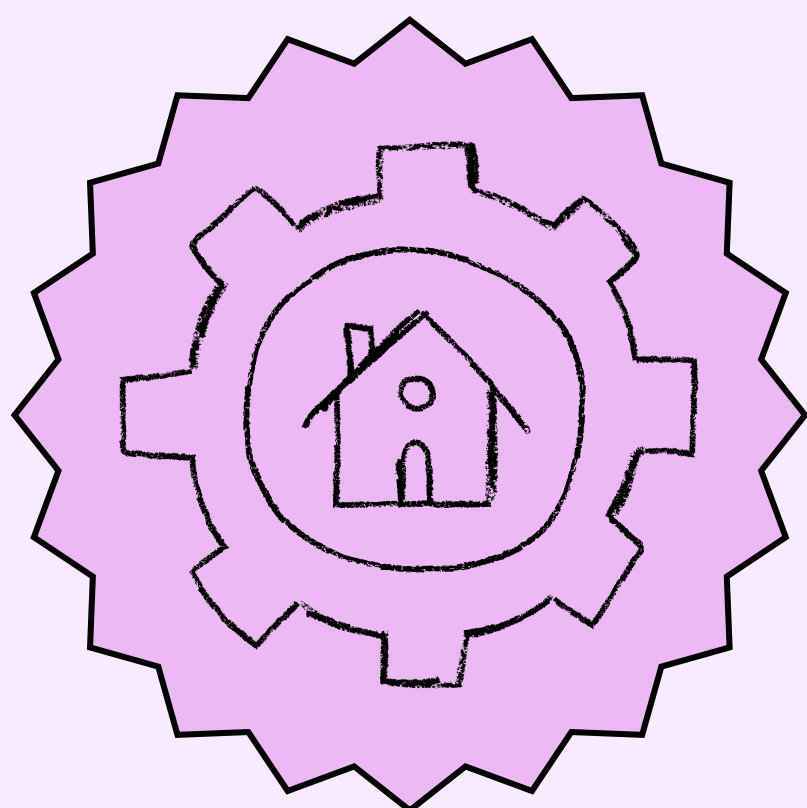
**Keywords:** "sexual exploitation", "youth", "group homes", "intervention programming", "treatment models"

## FINDINGS



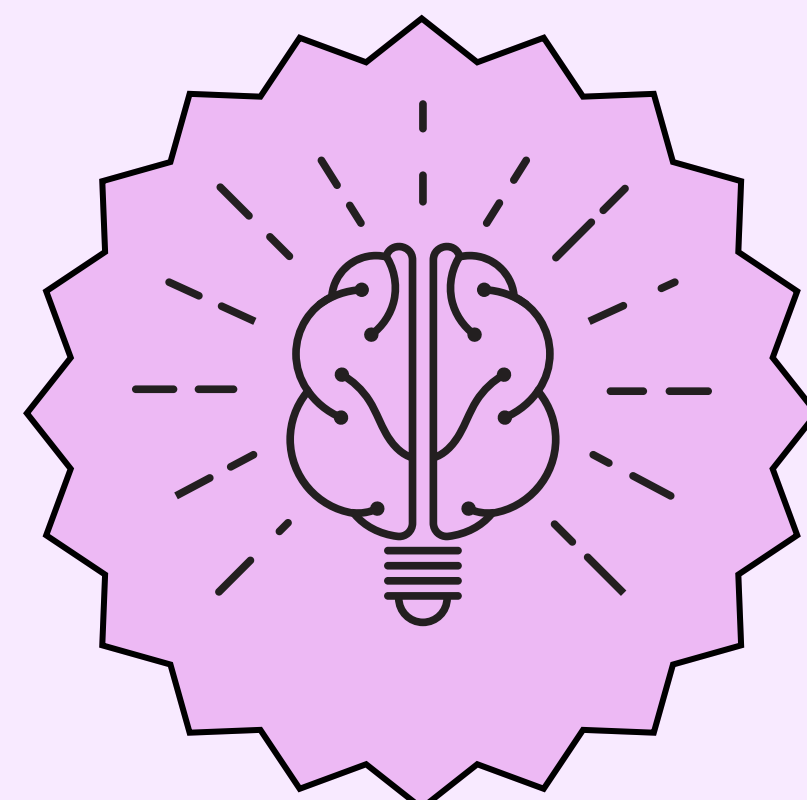
### **Youth Sexual Exploitation Risk Factors:**

1. Runaway youth from care
2. Risky Sexual Behaviours
3. History of Sexual Abuse
4. Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs)



### **Effective Intervention Programming & Treatment Models:**

1. Specialized group homes for at risk youth or sexually exploited youth & safe houses for runaway youth.
2. Trauma Informed Care Care Models.
3. Intervention groups and agencies



### **Trauma-Informed Care (TIC):**

1. Safety
2. Trustworthiness
3. Choice
4. Collaboration
5. Empowerment
6. Cultural, Historical & Gender Issues

## DISCUSSION & CONCLUSION

- There is no one-size-fits-all approach.
- PSECA legislation provides Child and Family Services with an opportunity to remove youth due to being sexually exploited or at risk of being exploited.
- Trauma-informed care is critical for rebuilding trust and facilitating healing as it is largely implemented in various successful treatment models.
- Education about sexual exploitation helps those at risk.
- Understanding the factors that contribute to successful outcomes can inform the development of more effective interventions.

### REFERENCES

- Fedina, L., Perdue, T., Bright, C. L. & Williamson, C. (2019). An ecological analysis of risk factors for runaway behaviour among individuals exposed to commercial sexual exploitation. *Journal of Child & Adolescent Trauma*, 12, 221-231.
- Harris, M., & Fallot, R. (2001). Envisioning a trauma-informed service system: A vital paradigm shift. *New Directions for Mental Health Services*, 2001(89), 3-22. <https://doi.org/10.1002/yd.23320018903>
- Laird, J. J., Klettke, B., Hall, K., Clancy, E. & Hallford, D. (2020). Demographic and psychosocial factors associated with child sexual exploitation: A systematic review and meta-analysis. *JAMA Network Open*, 3(9). <https://doi.org/10.1001/jamanetworkopen.2020.17682>
- Lee, B. R. & Thompson, R. (2008). Comparing outcomes for youth in treatment foster care and family-style group care. *Children and Youth Services Review*, 30(7), 746-757. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.chldyouth.2007.12.002>
- Murillo, J. (2023). *Examination of relationships among sexual exploitation, sex, and ACEs among youth in the legal system* [Honors thesis, Texas Christian University]. Texas Christian University Repository. <https://repository.tcu.edu/>
- Nunno, M. A., Leidy, B. D. & Holden, M. J. (2003). Evaluating and monitoring the impact of a crisis intervention system on a residential child care facility. *Children and Youth Services Review*, 25(4), 295-315. [https://doi.org/10.1016/S0190-7409\(03\)00013-6](https://doi.org/10.1016/S0190-7409(03)00013-6)
- Schwickrath, Q. D. (2021). *Beginning with the need for connection and safety: Examining how group home child and youth care counsellors in Alberta experience the enactment of trauma-informed care* [Master's thesis, University of Calgary]. Prism. <https://hdl.handle.net/1880/113214>
- Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration. (2014). *Trauma informed care in behavioral health services: A treatment protocol (TIP) SERIES 57*. HHS Publication No. (SMA) 14-4816. [https://ncsacw.samhsa.gov/userfiles/files/SAMHSA\\_Trauma.pdf](https://ncsacw.samhsa.gov/userfiles/files/SAMHSA_Trauma.pdf)