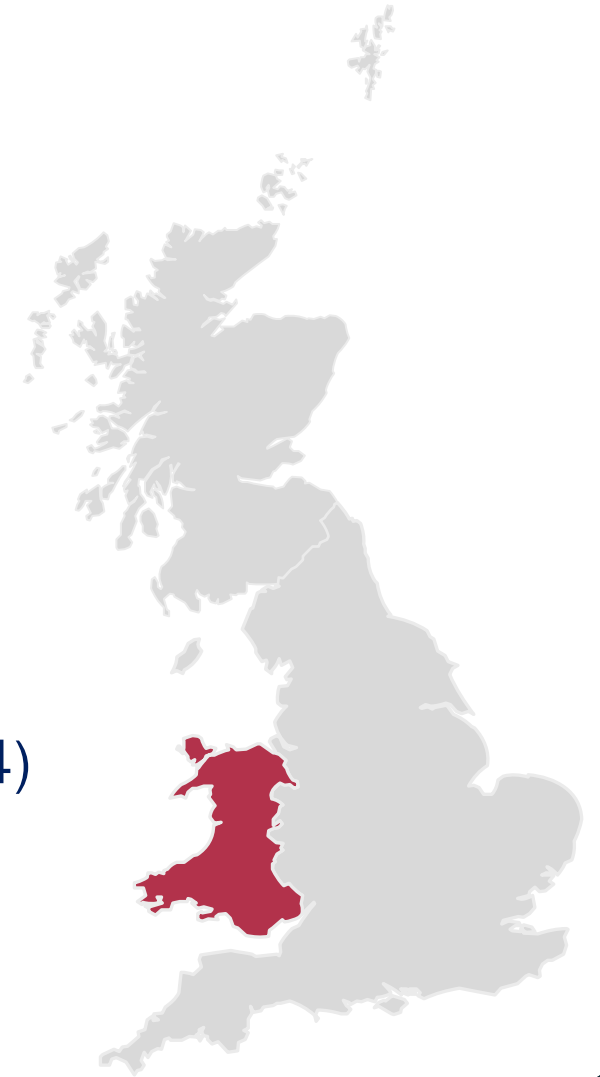


Using Sankey diagrams to visually depict the service journeys of criminally exploited children

Nina Maxwell (lead), Dorottya Cserző and Lois Liao (Cardiff University)
Ting Wang, Roshan Toby and Hywel Evans (Swansea University)

Background

- **No exact figures about prevalence**
 - No statutory definition or clear service pathways
 - Inconsistencies across services
- **Failed by the systems designed to protect them**
 - Local authorities 'give way' to the police (Jay Review, 2024)
 - Children must prove their victimhood
 - Contrasts with welfare principle



Study aims

- To provide insight into the referral routes and service pathways for criminally exploited children and how best to support them
 - Examine the referral and service pathways for criminally exploited children
 - Explore the education, health and social outcomes associated with service provision
 - Identify what factors influence professional decision-making about service pathways

Methods

- Chronological case study framework 2022 - 2025

Phase one: Data collection

One Welsh local authority

Referred to a multi-agency exploitation meeting: 2021 to 2023
(n = 162)

Phase two: Analysis

Data linkage with administrative datasets:
CSC, education, health
(n = 162)

Simulation data extraction and development (n = 15)

Phase three: Results

Visually mapping chronologies using linked data

Professional decision making with two Welsh local authorities (n = 28)

Data extraction

- **Data recording is inconsistent and incomplete**
 - Names: spelling and aliases
 - Parent details (especially fathers)
 - Nationality and ethnicity
 - Missing episodes
 - Exploitation and indicators
- **Outcomes are not routinely recorded**
 - No further referrals
 - Completed orders

Data linkage

- **Social care and youth justice**

- Welsh Demographic Service: NHS, Forename, Surname, DOB, gender, postcode
 - Over 95% matching rate

- **Data linkage**

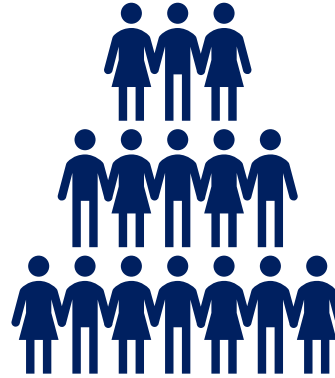
- Family relationships – 78% for mother and 72% for father
- Unmatched
 - No DOB – 16+ years
 - Known to child protection
 - CSC, YJS, offences, seriousness of offence

Sankey diagrams



- Which service pathways are better for whom?
 - Flow diagram: visualise amounts through different stages or nodes
- Nodes
 - Evidence-informed and expertise-informed
 - Traceability issues
 - Inflated by data masking

Sample



162 children's services

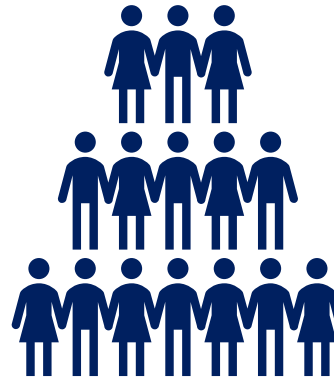
102 youth justice services

45 females



115 males

113 British
49 unknown



98 White

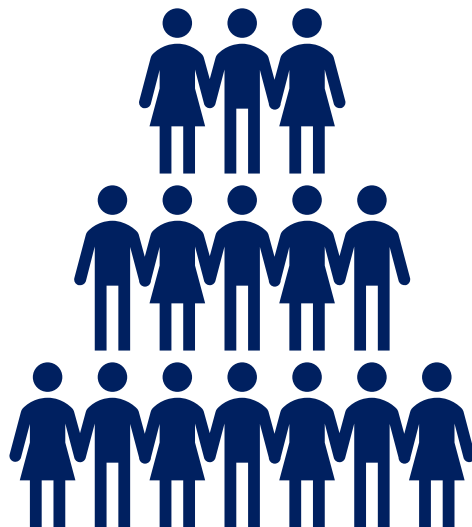
21 Mixed

20 Other

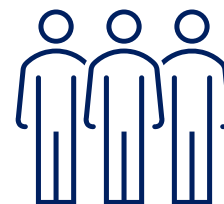
22 Not recorded

Demographics

- Under 10 years = 20*
- 10 – 12 years = 10
- 13 – 15 years = 50
- 16 – 17 years = 45
- 18+ years = 47



45 mum only



7 dad only



20 both parents

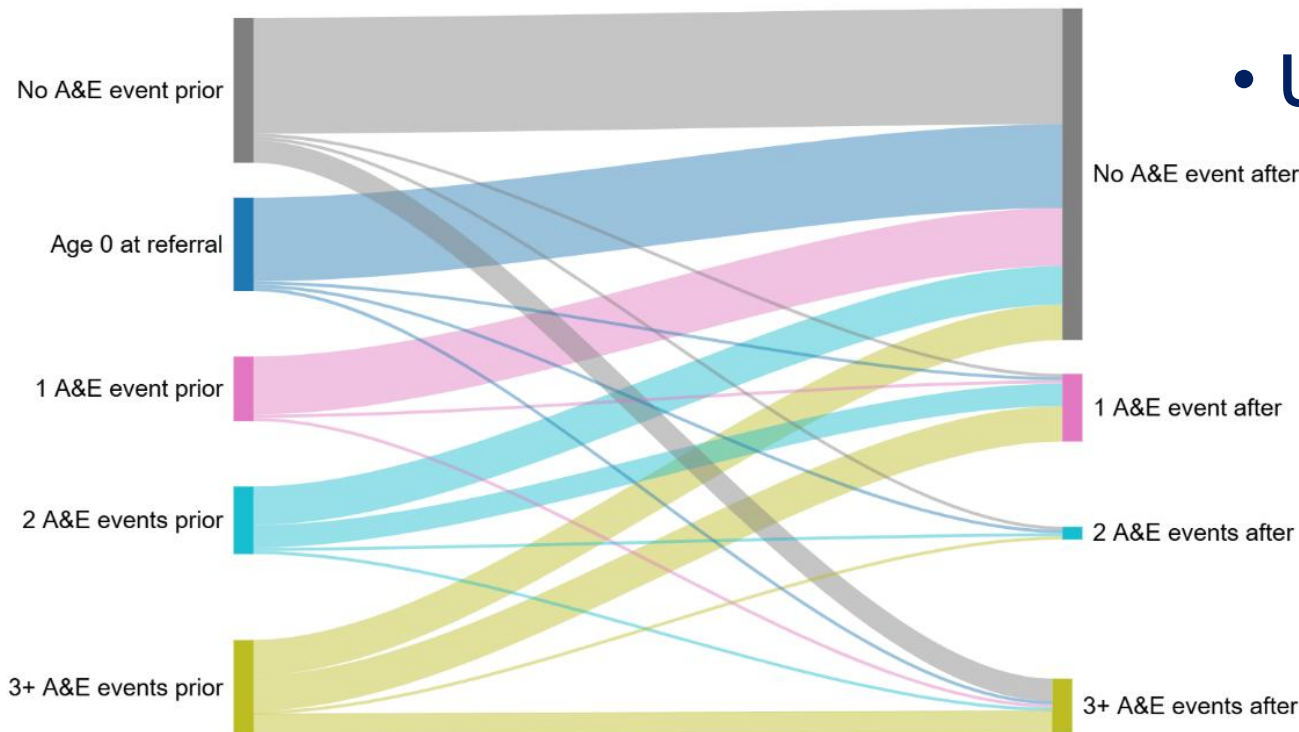


39 one or both parents



33 not with parents

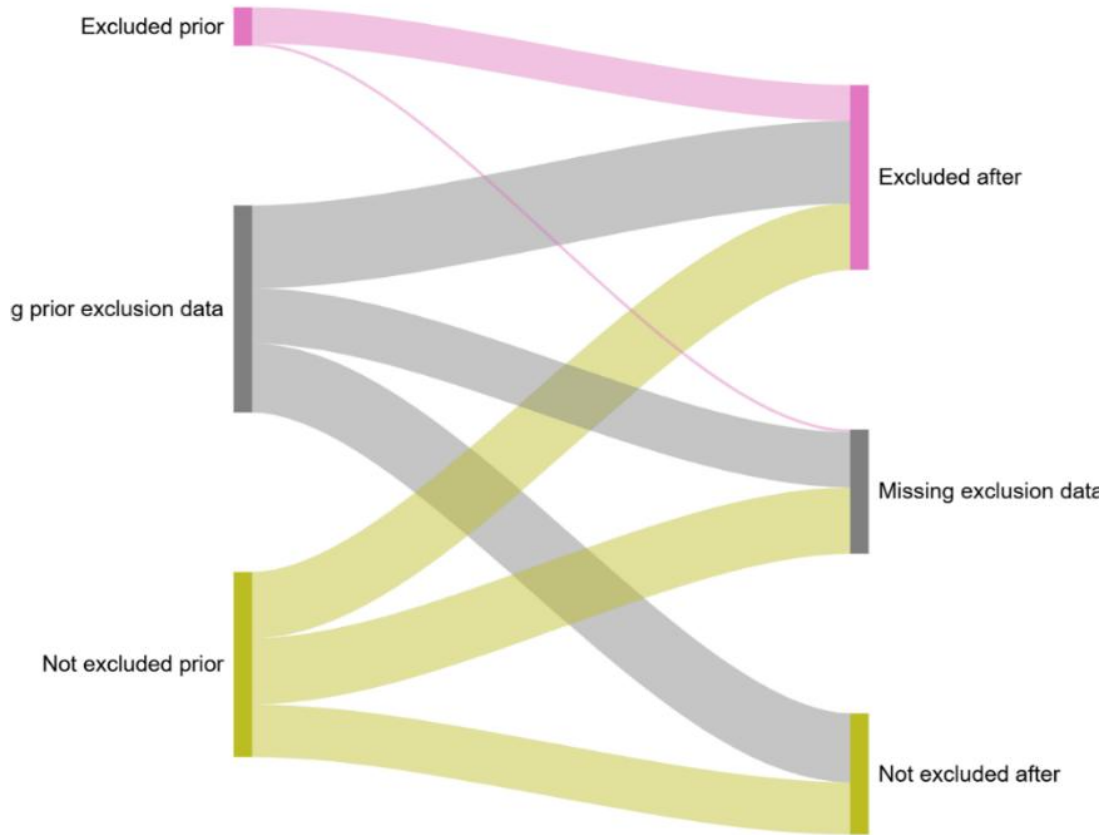
Health pathways: A&E attendance



- Up to two years after CSC referral
 - 14% reduction
 - Once: 78% reduction
 - Twice: 79% once or not at all
 - Three: 79% once, twice or not at all

Made at SankeyMATIC.com

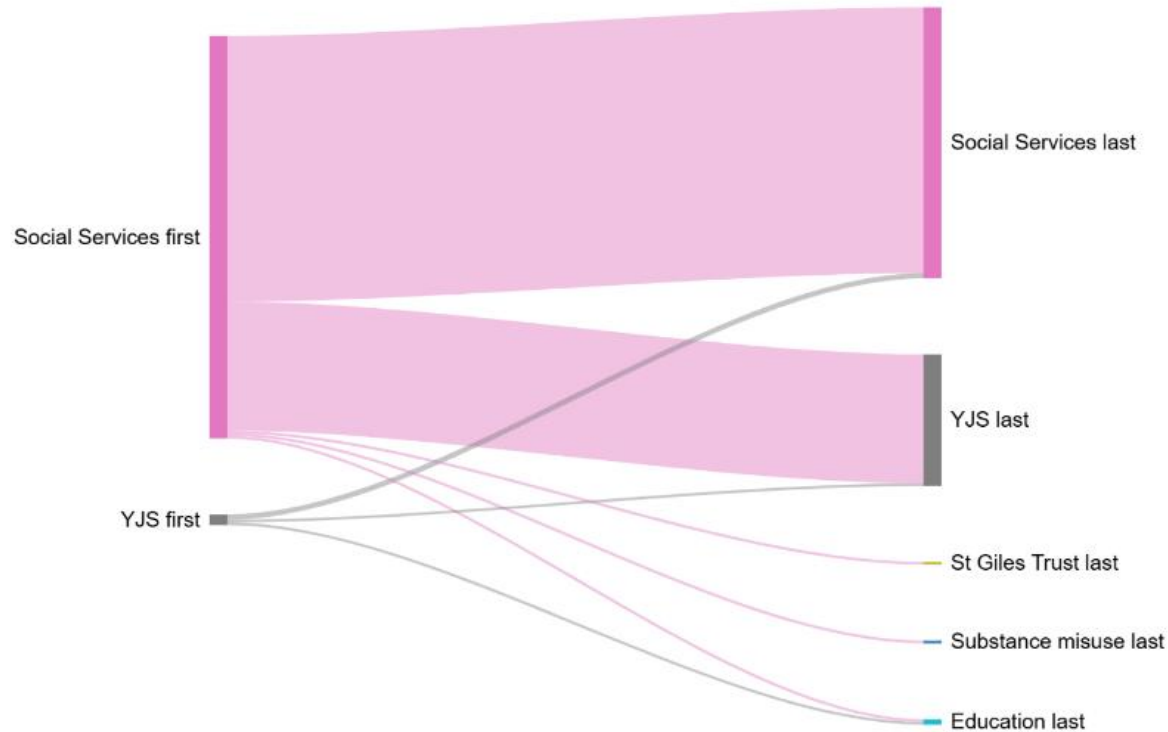
Education pathways: school exclusion



Made at SankeyMATIC.com

- **Attending school prior to referral**
 - 28% remained in school
 - 36% were excluded
- **Excluded prior to referral**
 - 10% excluded
 - 84% remained excluded
- **Data missing (50%)**
 - 40% became excluded

Social care pathways



Made at SankeyMATIC.com

- Referred to children's social care
 - 64% remained with CSC
 - 30% moved to YJS
- Referred to youth justice services
 - Less than 10
 - Remained with YJS
 - Moved to CSC
 - Moved to education support
- Specialist services

Offending pathways



- **No offences**

- 56% under ≤ 9 years
- 46% of children ≥ 10 years

- **Seriousness (1 to 8)**

- 4/5 ratings higher for ≤ 9 years
- 6 ratings equal for both age groups
- 1-3 ratings higher for ≥ 10 years
- 7/8 ratings low both age groups

Impact

- **Evidence-informed service provision**

- Reinforcing practitioner insights
 - Data needed to evidence service change
- New insights about how contextual factors impact service delivery
 - Tailoring or creating provision

- **Next steps**

- Address issues with traceability across multiple nodes
 - Working with practitioners

Thank you for listening

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