

Child Sex Trafficking in Our Communities

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Objectives

- Become familiar with the concept of child sex trafficking/child sexual exploitation
- Identify risk factors associated with child sexual exploitation
- Discuss barriers to identification of child victims
- Be aware of specific needs and long-term outcomes of child victims



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What is Sex Trafficking?

- Engaging a person <18 years old in a commercial sex act
 - Sexual activity for which there is exchange of something of value
 - Exploitation for prostitution
 - Exploitation for sex travel/tourism
 - Mail order bride/forced marriage
 - Production of child pornography
 - Online sexual abuse
 - Performing in sexual venues



Child Sex Trafficking

- Terminology
 - Commercial sexual exploitation of children
 - Sexual exploitation
 - Domestic minor sex trafficking
 - Child prostitution
- What is included
 - Pornography
 - Survival sex
 - Commercial sex

SOCIETY MAY CALL IT

PROSTITUTION

BUT FEDERAL LAW CALLS IT

SEX TRAFFICKING

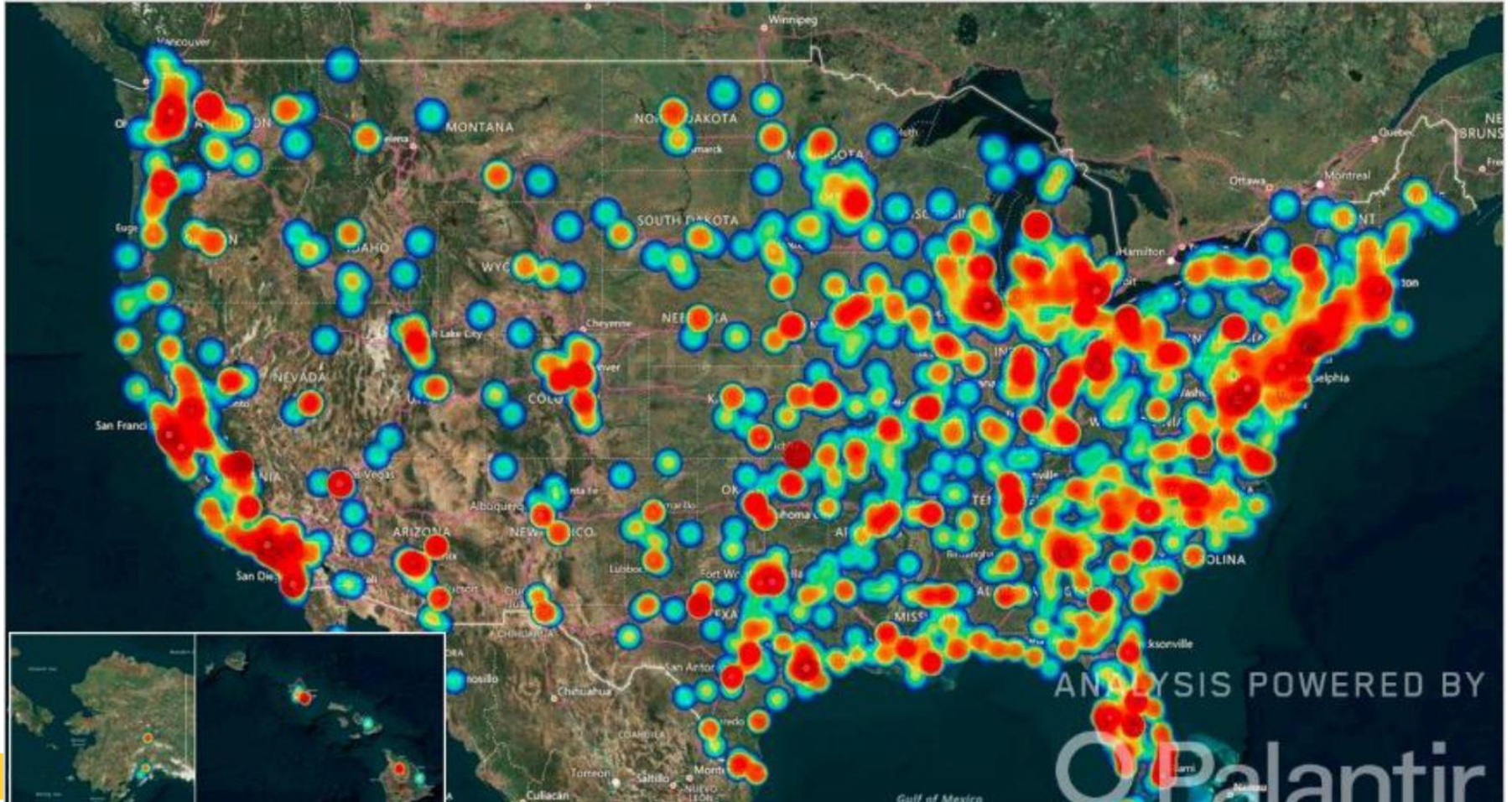


Scope of the Problem

- Difficult to determine
 - No consistent or standardized methods
 - For identification
 - For tracking
 - Criminal activity
- Estimates suggest 2-300,000 youth in the US are ***at risk*** of trafficking
- In surveys of American/Canadian middle and high school students
 - 2-4% have traded sex for something of value



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National Statistics

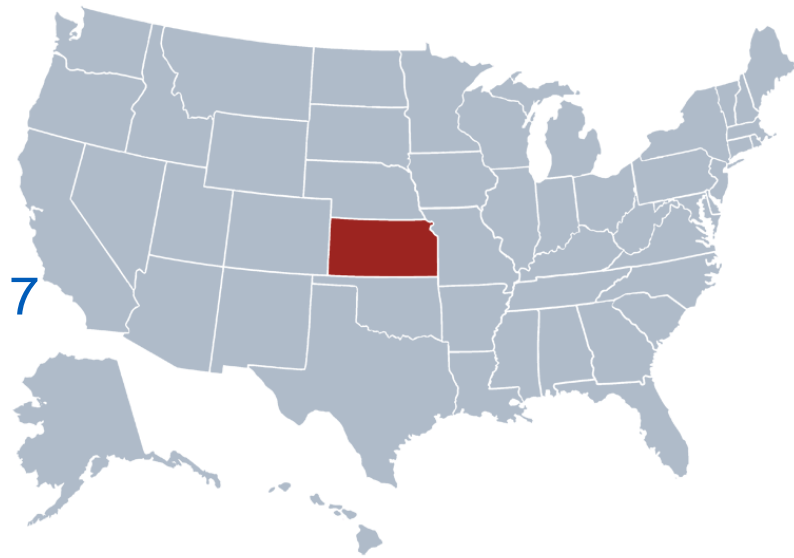
- National Human Trafficking Hotline 2017
 - 26,557 calls
 - 8,524 cases
 - 75% sex trafficking
 - 83% female
 - 2,495 children (32%)

- Preliminary data; 2017 Annual Report is not yet available



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Kansas stats



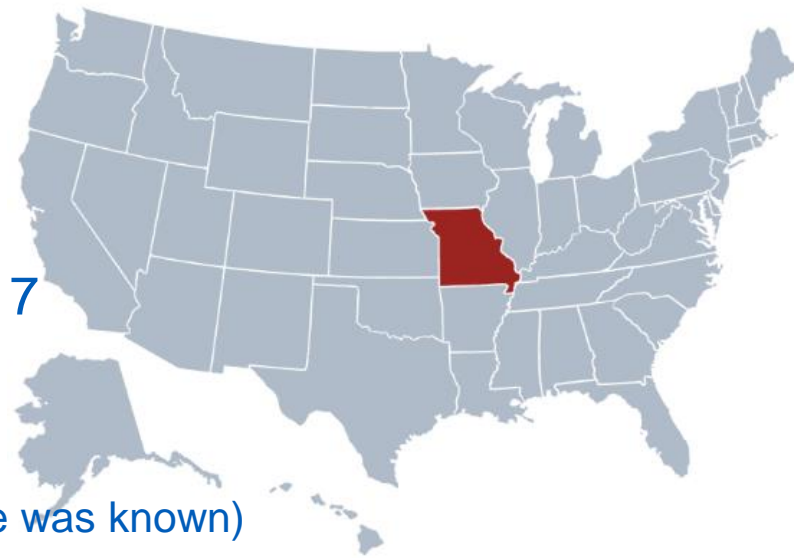
- National Human Trafficking Hotline 2017
 - 218 calls
 - 67 identified cases
 - 28 children (42% of cases)

- How does KS compare?
 - In 2016 Annual Report, KS was 32nd in the country
 - <1% of total hotline calls from KS
 - Nationwide, 27% of cases are children



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Missouri stats



- National Human Trafficking Hotline 2017
 - 420 calls
 - 140 identified cases
 - 41 children (33% of cases for which age was known)
- How does MO compare?
 - In 2016 Annual Report, KS was 17th in the country
 - <1.6% of total hotline calls from KS
 - Nationwide, 27% of cases are children



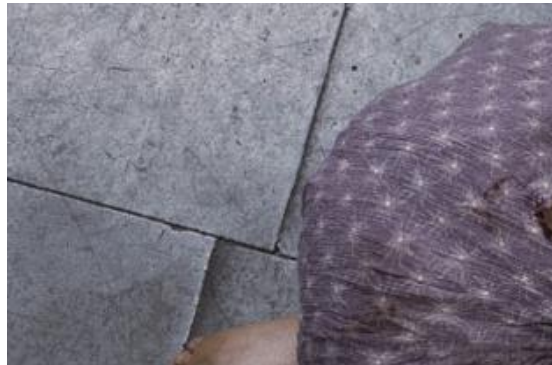
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Minors 2015



A large, dense crowd of people, likely at an outdoor event or festival, is shown from a high-angle perspective. The crowd is diverse in age and appearance, with many people wearing sunglasses and casual summer attire. The text "Who is a trafficking victim??" is overlaid in large, bold, yellow letters across the center of the image.

**Who is a
trafficking
victim??**



<https://www.endslaverynow.org/media/2474/screen-shot-2015-10-13-at-32317-pm.png> <https://lawstreetmedia.com/issues/law-and-politics/human-trafficking-alive-united-states/>
<http://www.rshr.org/publications/campaigns/advertising-campaign-torture-and-detention/> <http://www.eliberare.com/en/2012/08/barcode-tattoo-romanian-traffickers/>
<https://www.askideas.com/barcode-tattoo-on-girl-back-neck/>

Victims

- Malnourished, physical injuries, bruises, burns
- Tattoos
- Substance use/abuse
- Uncooperative, avoids eye contact
- No identification or documentation
- Lots of cash, multiple cell phones
- With a domineering male (i.e. pimp) or other adult



Victims

- Data primarily based on adult studies, international data
 - Includes labor and sex trafficking
 - Some homeless adolescents included
- Doesn't exactly apply to kids in Kansas City



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Who are trafficked children?



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Who are trafficked children?

- Many live with their parents/guardians
- Most attend school
- Most do not have physical injuries
- Most do not have tattoos
- Most are appropriately dressed
- Most are as cooperative as any other kid



Characteristics of identified child victims

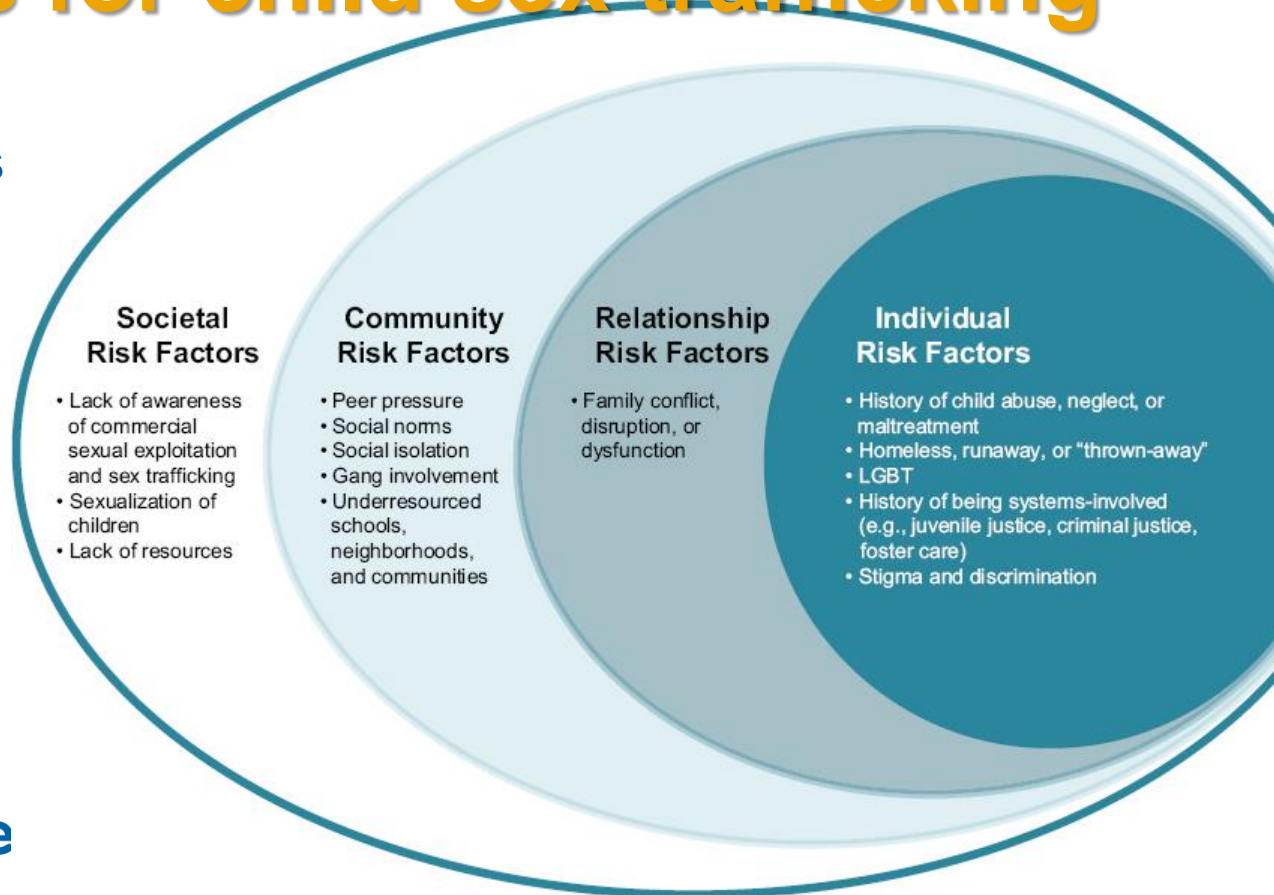
- Data is limited!
- Some key features/risk factors exist
 - Studies of homeless youth in major US cities
 - Data from children identified as victims



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Risk factors for child sex trafficking

- Societal risk factors
- Familial risk factors
- Child risk factors



The family at risk

- Parental substance abuse
- Parental mental health problems
- Poverty
- Parental criminal activity
- Child abuse
- Intrafamilial violence



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<https://www.promises.com/articles/addiction-news-research/family-history-impact-risk-drinking-problems/>

The child at risk

- Child abuse/CPS involvement
- Substance use
- Running away
- Kicked out
- LGBTQ



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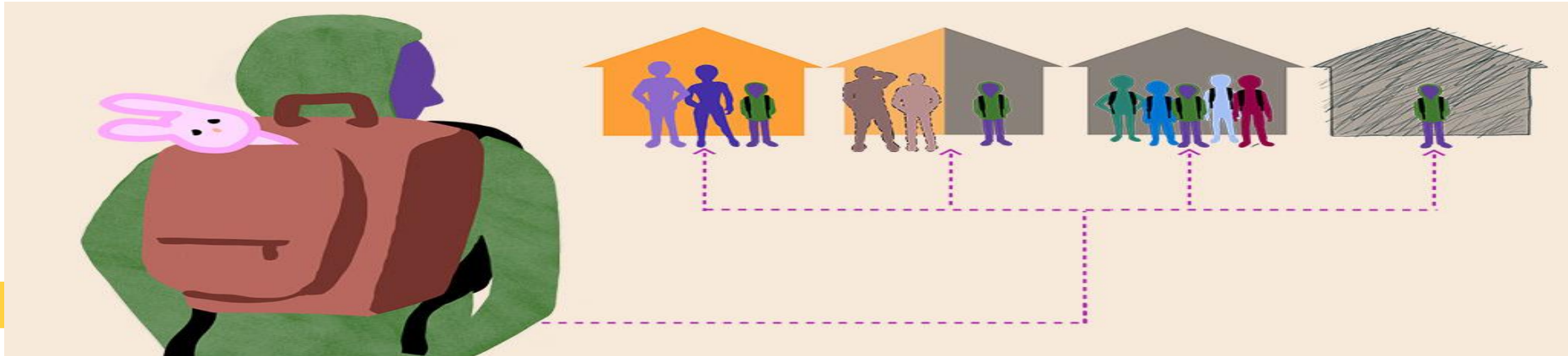
Risk factor: History of Abuse

- Multiple studies consistently show the majority of sex trafficked children were previous victims of child abuse
 - 75-95% previously suffered child abuse
- Half to three-quarters of CSEC victims were previously sexually abused!
 - Studies suggest this may be one of the single most important child risk factors for future sex trafficking
- Wide range of prior CPS involvement (28-97%)



Risk factor: Out of home placement

- Foster care, residential facility, group home, CPS custody
- Over-represented in CSEC population
 - More than half of victims in some studies report prior placement
 - In a study of victims evaluated in a single Child Advocacy Center, 57% had prior group home placement and 44% had prior foster care placement



Risk factor: Running Away

- The vast majority of identified victims have run away from home
 - Studies find 60-97% have run at least once
- Most run more than once
 - One study found that 62% reported running multiple times per month



Risk factor: Homelessness/Abandonment

- A quarter to just over half of children identified as CSEC victims were homeless at the time
 - 90% reported being homeless at some time
- Studies of homeless youth show:
 - 14-30% engage in “survival sex”
 - 67-90% were offered money for sex or otherwise solicited
 - Nearly a quarter were solicited on their first night of being homeless



Many victims live at home!

- A study of trafficked youth in NY, some lived with parents/relatives
 - 79% in rural areas
 - 32% in NYC
- A study of kids presenting for medical forensic evaluations
 - 54% lived with mom (+/- dad) at the time they were identified
 - 72% had lived with parents at some time while being trafficked!



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Parents

- Many victims live with and present in the care of parents/regular caregivers
 - Who may or may not be aware of the trafficking
 - Who may or may not be complicit in the trafficking
 - Worldwide, >40% child trafficking started with a parent!!
- Of victims evaluated at a single CAC:
 - 20% lived with parents when they were first trafficked
 - 8% were first trafficked by a parent!



Derby teacher charged with sexual exploitation of a child

Posted: Feb 09, 2018 11:30 AM CST
Updated: Mar 02, 2018 11:30 AM CST

written by KAKE News **CONNECT**



WICHITA, Kan. (KAKE) - A Derby Middle School teacher has been charged with eleven counts of sexual exploitation of a child. Cody Chitwood made his first appearance Thursday.

Chitwood, 37, was arrested last month following what the Sedgwick County Sheriff's Department called a two month investigation into child pornography. Investigators said the crimes did not involve students of staff at the school. Chitwood was suspended with pay.

0 Comments

Sort by **Newest** ↓



Elkins also admitted to allowing men have sexual intercourse with her daughter at their home.



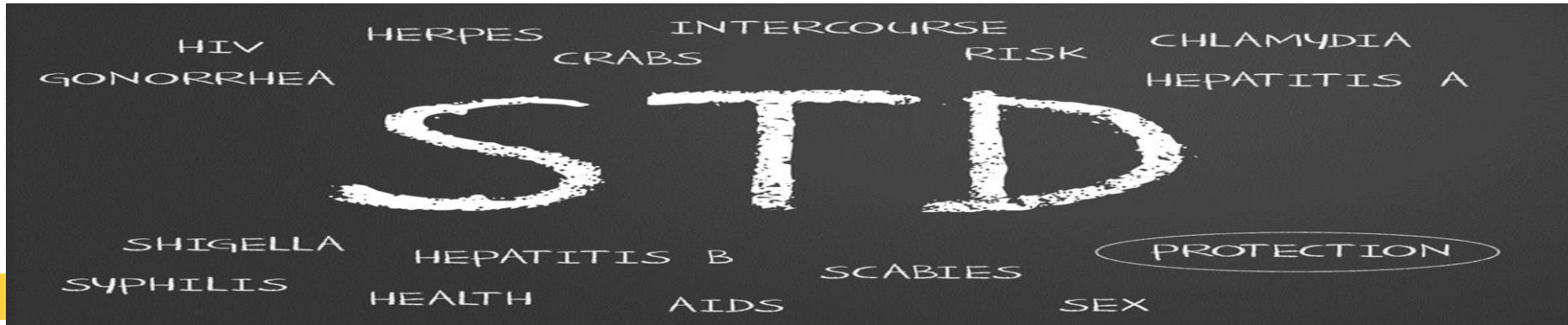
Risk factors: “Consensual” sexual activity

- Nearly all (96% in one study) identified victims endorse prior consensual sexual activity
- Nearly $\frac{3}{4}$ became sexually active by age 13-14 years
- More than a third endorse >10 prior partners



Risk factors: History of STI

- Studies consistently show statistically significant differences between trafficked and not trafficked children
 - More victims with a history of a prior STI
 - 33-70% report ever having a STI
 - Nearly half of those report having more than one



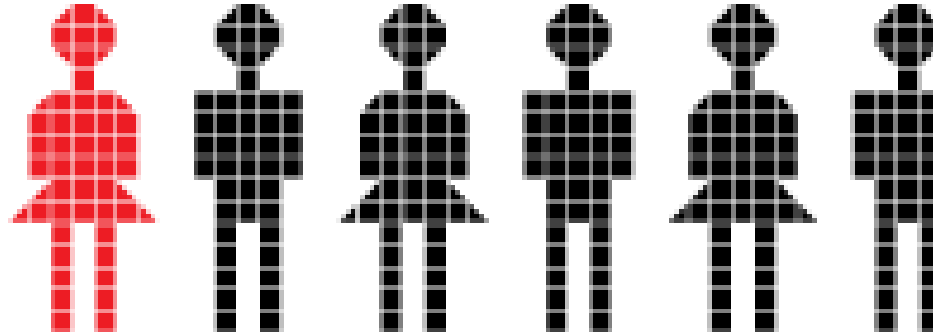
Risk factor: Other reported features

- Drug/alcohol use
- LGBTQ – Hugely overrepresented in CSEC population
 - 33 - 39% of trafficking victims
 - 60% of LGBTQ homeless youth reported trafficking
- Vast majority have significant mental health needs
- Prior history with law enforcement
- Tattoos
 - One study from a Child Abuse Clinic: 25 trafficking, 83 sexual abuse
 - 48% of trafficked patients had tattoos of any kind
 - Compared to 5% of sexually abused patients



Risk factors: Summary

- History of child abuse
 - Especially sexual abuse
- History of out of home placement
- History of running away
- Homelessness
- High risk sexual activity
 - Early sexual debut
 - Multiple sex partners
- History of STI
- LGBTQ
- Other features: mental health, substance use, tattoos



Age of Entry

- Most studies report 14-17 years of age
 - 10-11 years was reported in 43% in one study in NY
 - 12-14 years in studies of adult victims in Las Vegas and Texas
 - Boys tend to be younger than girls
- National Human Trafficking Hotline
 - Average age of victims is 19, but most common age is 15-17



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Identification of victims

- This is the biggest challenge!
- Barriers to identification
 - Lack of awareness/education
 - Lack of disclosure
 - Fear of the trafficker, fear of the system, fear of family...
 - Child may not identify self as victim
 - They don't look like that stereotyped image
 - They don't have a pimp
 - They perceive their participation as voluntary
 - Perpetrator/trafficker grooming
 - Perception of trafficker as boyfriend



Misconceptions: The trafficker

- The pimp
 - Not all trafficked children are controlled by a third party
 - 25% of kids evaluated at a CAC
 - 58% of homeless youth victims
 - In one study, 67% reported having a trafficker at some point
 - Who is the trafficker?
 - 13-25% report being trafficked by a stranger
 - 16-29% by intimate partner/boyfriend
 - 25-50% by family/friend/acquaintance
 - 8% reported being trafficked by their mother
 - 5% by another family member



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Sexual exploitation without a trafficker

- Survival sex
 - Engaging in sex to meet basic needs
- Sale of commercial sex
 - Solicitation of buyers online or in person
- This is still CSEC/Sex Trafficking! Children cannot consent to the sale of sex.

The **common age**
a child enters sex trafficking is

14-16

TOO YOUNG AND NAIVE TO
REALIZE WHAT'S HAPPENING



Recruitment

- Children may be recruited by a trafficker
 - Commonly under the guise of romance
 - Less commonly by a stranger
- High rates of recruitment by friends and acquaintances
 - At home, school, or social gatherings
 - Recruited for a trafficker or not
- Most youth report engaging in sex trade due to economic need
 - Uncertain housing
 - Difficulty finding employment
 - Lack of academic skills



Where are victims presenting?

- Frequency of contact w/ medical system
 - More than 25% of victims had seen a healthcare provider within the last 6 months (Curtis, 2008)
 - Studies suggest much higher numbers of children present to medical care
- Where do they contact medical
 - Emergency Department, Health Department, Urgent Care, Teen Clinics, Doctor's Office



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Medical evaluation

- Why are they seeking care?
 - Injuries
 - Unsafe sex
 - Drug and alcohol complications
 - Chronic medical conditions
 - Somatic complaints
 - Well-child care
 - Sexual abuse/assault



if you don't

.....

ASK

.....

the answer is always no

Child Specific Sample Questions

- Have you ever run away from home? How many times in the last year?
- Where are you living now, and with whom?
- Do you feel safe at home?
- Do you go to school? Ever skip school?
- Do you have a boy/girlfriend? How old is this person?
- Are you sexually active? How many partners?
- Ever had an STI or been pregnant?



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Child Specific Sample Questions

- How often do you or your friends use drugs/alcohol?
- Are there pictures of you on the Internet? Are they in a social networking site? In a classified ad?
- Is anyone forcing you to do anything you don't want to do?
- Has anyone ever threatened to hurt you or your family?



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Specific screening for identifying victims

- No validated screening tools exist
 - Some exist and are evidence based
 - Multi-center study currently ongoing



Specific screening for sex trafficking

This question is about earning something of value in exchange for sexual activity. “Sexual activity” could mean dancing, stripping, posing for photos, or having any kind of sex, including oral sex, with someone in exchange for something of value such as money, food, clothing, a place to stay, protection, drugs, gifts or favors. Remember, this could be anyone, including a family member, a friend, boyfriend or girlfriend, or anyone you lived with or were in a relationship with?

- **Have you or anyone else ever received anything of value, such as money, a place to stay, food, drugs, gifts or favors, in exchange for your performing a sexual activity? YES NO**



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Medical evaluation

- History
- Detailed physical exam
 - Genital exam
 - Forensic evidence collection
- STI screening
- Hotline to CPS, report to Law Enforcement
- Safety planning for discharge
- Referrals
 - Mental Health!!!
 - Medical home
 - Drug rehab
 - Legal aid
 - Community services/housing/job training/education
 - Others as indicated



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Referrals

- You don't have to know every resource available
- National Human Trafficking Resource Center
 - 1-888-3737-888
 - Information on local resources throughout the US
 - Multiple languages available
- CPS and local Child Advocacy Centers can help
 - Sunflower House (Johnson/Wyandotte)
 - Child Protection Center (Cass/Jackson)
 - Synergy (Clay/Platte/Ray)



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VICTIMS NEED HELP

NOT JUDGEMENT OR PUNISHMENT



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<https://sharedhope.org/the-problem/what-is-sex-trafficking/>

Outcomes

- Childhood trauma is well-recognized as a cause of future physical, emotional, behavioral, and mental health complications and adverse outcomes.
- Trafficking victims commonly experience multiple forms of trauma
 - Sexual
 - Physical
 - Psychological
 - Neglect



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Physical Health Consequences

- Reproductive health issues
 - Sexually transmitted infections (including HIV)
 - Pelvic inflammatory disease
 - Sexual assault injuries
 - Unsafe abortions, poor prenatal care, unwanted offspring
 - Higher maternal mortality risk
 - Cervical cancer



Physical health consequences

- Physical assault injuries
 - Fractures, bruises, lacerations, burns, head/brain injuries
- Headaches, fatigue, dizziness
- Memory loss
- Abdominal pain, back pain, chronic pain
- Dental problems
- Substance abuse complications
- Malnutrition



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Mental health consequences

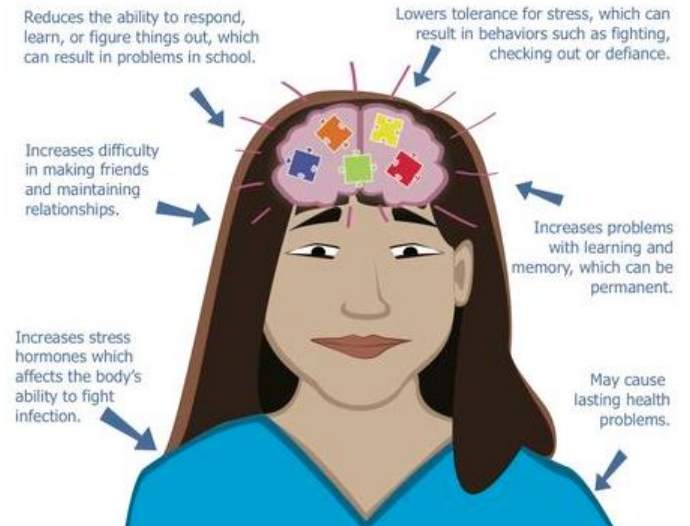
- Depression
- Post traumatic stress disorder
- Suicidal thoughts
 - Increased rate of suicide completion
- Psychological burdens of rape, slavery, and exploitation
- Increased rates of multiple other psychiatric disorders
 - Anxiety, dissociation, attachment disorder, eating disorder
 - Aggression, anger control, ODD, psychosis
 - ADHD
 - Somatization



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Other consequences

- Sexual behavior and relationship problems
- Lack of education, job skills
- Community ostracism: isolation, discrimination
- Loss of honor and self esteem



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Sex trafficking victim Cyntoia Brown sentenced to life after killing man who bought her

POSTED 10:08 AM, NOVEMBER 22, 2017, BY ERIKA JUNE SMITH, UPDATED AT 07:35AM, NOVEMBER 23, 2017

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Police & F

NASHVILLE — In 2004, Cyntoia Brown was sentenced to life in prison because she killed a man who bought her. 13 years later, she is still in prison, and celebrities are joining the rallying cry to free her.

When she was just 16, Cyntoia Brown was being sex-trafficked by a pimp named “Kutthroat.” She was verbally, physically, and sexually abused then sold to a 43-year-old Nashville realtor, named Johnny Allen, who used her for sex.

According to [Newsweek](#), Cyntoia eventually shot and killed Allen after being taken to his home.

She was tried as an adult and found guilty of murder and prostitution. She will not be eligible for parole until she is 69-years-old, according to [WZTV](#).



ASHLEY SLEEP

SAVE \$500 NOW

Ashley HOMESTORE

SHOP NOW >

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ModCloth

“When asked what could have helped prevent them from being in this situation, the most frequent response was having supportive parents or family members.”

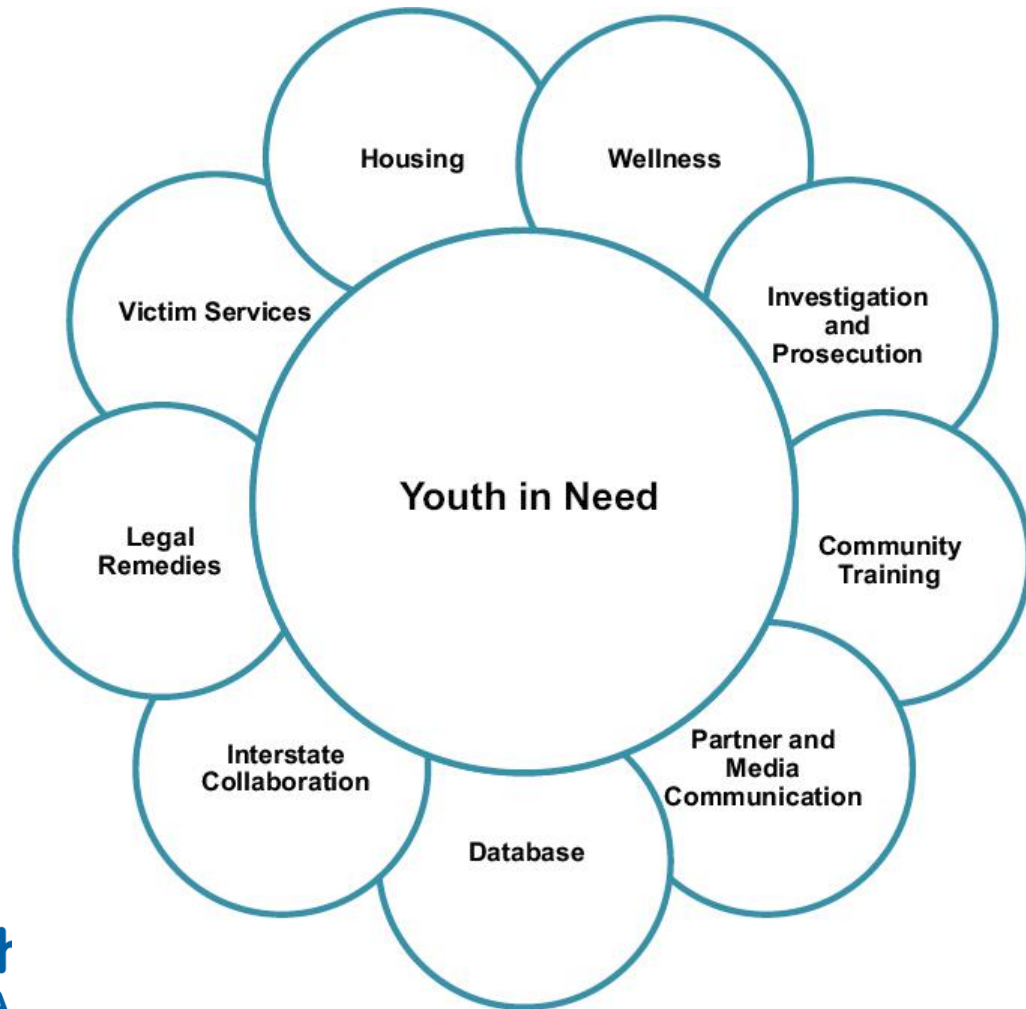
58% of homeless youth who reported they did not have a caring adult in their lives were sex trafficked; 41% who had a caring adult were trafficked.



Prevention

- Child abuse prevention
- Education
 - Job skills programs
- Increased housing opportunities
- Promotion of healthy sexuality/relationships
- Increased funding for services for homeless and runaway youth
- Increased training for professionals
 - School, law enforcement, medical providers





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Questions?

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