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EXPLOITATION AND SEX TRAFFICKING IN YOUTH
Objectives

- Understand what human trafficking actually is
- Understand Child Trafficking
- Understand Risk Factors and Vulnerabilities of school-aged children related to human trafficking
- Understand human trafficking indicators
- Signs of Human Trafficking
IN OUR BACKYARD
What is Human Trafficking?

**human trafficking** noun
: the illegal practice of procuring persons for the purpose of prostitution, forced labor, or other forms of exploitation.
**Federal Legal Definition of Human Trafficking:**

- **Sex Trafficking:**
  The recruitment, harboring, transportation, provision, obtaining, patronizing, or soliciting of a person for the purpose of commercial sex act, in which the commercial sex act is induced by force, fraud, or coercion, or in which the person induced to perform such an act has not attained 18 years of age. - 22 USC 7102

- **Labor Trafficking:**
  The recruitment, harboring, transportation, provision, obtaining of a person for labor or services, through force, fraud, or coercion for the purpose of subjection to involuntary servitude, peonage, debt bondage, or slavery. - 22 USC § 7102
Minnesota Statute 609.322

- Solicits or induces an individual to practice prostitution.
- Promotes the prostitution of an individual
- Receives profit, knowing or having reason to know that it is derived from the prostitution, or the promotion of the prostitution of an individual
- Engages in the sex trafficking of an individual
No requirement

- Force
- Fraud
- Coercion
What is Human trafficking?

“What Human Trafficking is the recruitment, harboring, transporting, or procurement of a person for labor or services for the purpose of involuntary servitude, slavery, or forced commercial sex acts.”

-Texas Human Trafficking Prevention Task Force
Forms of Human Trafficking:

- Labor Trafficking: 14%
- Sex Trafficking: 73%
- Joint Trafficking: 4%
Top 10 Myths of Trafficking:

- Only happens to foreign nationals
- Requires travel/transportation
- Traffickers always use violence
- Victims only come from poverty
- Smuggling
- Illegal underground industries
- Doesn’t happen in our area
- Only happens in the movies
- Victims are criminal
#1 Myth:

It’s a Choice
Understanding Human Trafficking

- Human Trafficking is about exploitation and DOES NOT have to involve movement of a person.
- Trafficking Can Occur Anywhere.
Locations of Potential Human Trafficking Cases in the U.S. — Polaris Project 2016

This map only reflects cases where the location of the potential trafficking was known. Some cases may involve more than one location.
Human Trafficking in Minnesota: A Report to the Minnesota Legislature

January 2017

Prepared by:
Minnesota Office of Justice Programs
Minnesota Statistical Analysis Center
Why Trafficking Exists

![Pie chart showing profits from human trafficking](Image)

- **Sexual Exploitation**: 66% | $99 billion
- **Domestic Servitude**: 5.3% | $8 billion
- **Forced Labour Exploitation**: 38.1% | $43.5 billion

*Information from International Labour Organization © Human Trafficking Center 2015*
The Economics of Human Trafficking: 
*Low Risk with a High Profit*

**Low Risk**
- Lack of law enforcement training
- Low community awareness
- Ineffective or unused laws
- Social blaming of victims.

**High Profit**
- Individuals willing to buy commercial sex
- Buyers create a market
- Create a profit for traffickers to sexually exploit children and adults.
HUMAN TRAFFICKING RED FLAGS

FOR ADULTS
- Third-party control of schedule and social interaction
- Isolation from community, family or friends
- Evidence of violence: bruising, swelling, scarring
- Tattoos or branding
- Sexually provocative clothing that is inappropriate for the situation or weather
- Frequent movement/erratic schedule
- Inability to speak English
- Identification documents in the hands of a third party
- Lack of knowledge about the community
- Malnutrition, dehydration, exhaustion
- Dizziness, headaches, memory loss from traumatic brain injury
- Untreated chronic disease, dental or visual problems
- Chronic back pain, muscle strains, cardiovascular and respiratory issues related to exposure to chemicals, serious industrial injury

FOR CHILDREN
- Changes in their school attendance habits, appearance, socio-economics, friend groups, interests, school activities, vocabulary, demeanor, attitude and sexual behavior
- Luxury items like manicures, designer clothing, purses, etc. without an explainable source of income
- Truancy
- Getting into trouble in the company of older teens or adults
- Sexually provocative clothing
- Tattoos or branding
- Hotel key cards
- Refillable gift cards
- Multiple phone or social media accounts
- Lying about the existence of those accounts or refusing parent access to those accounts
- Sexually provocative pictures on the phone or online accounts
- Unexplained injuries: bruising, swelling, redness, cigarette burns
- Claim of an older boyfriend/girlfriend
- Lack of I.D.
- Multiple runaways in a short period of time
Children at Risk

• “Among the diverse populations affected by human trafficking, children are at particular risk to sex and labor trafficking.” - U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
Domestic Sex Trafficking in the United States

100,000 to 300,000
Underage girls being sold for sex in America

- 1 out of every 3 teens on the street will be lured toward prostitution within 48 hours of running away from home
- 50,000 women and children are trafficked into the United States each year
- Minor victims were sold an average of 10-15 times a day, 6 days a week

- The sale of child pornography has become a $3 billion dollar industry
- Most internet child pornography comes from the United States
- 1 out of 5 pornographic images is of a child

The Reasons Victims Struggle to Get the Help:
- Fear of retaliation
- Lack of knowledge of services
- Lack of trust
- Shame & stigma
- Don’t know services exist
- Lack of transportation
- Learned helplessness/PTSD
- Cultural & language barriers
- Unable to recognize their need

What is child sexual exploitation?

The sexual abuse of children and youth through the exchange of sex or sexual acts for drugs, food, shelter, protection, affection, other basics of life, and/or money.

Sexual exploitation includes involving children and youth in creating pornography and sexually explicit websites (exploitation of a minor by electronic means).
Who is involved in trafficking?

- **Recruiter**: Gain the victims trust then passes the victim of to pimp or labor trafficker…a “bottom”.

- **Trafficker**: Person who controls the victims. Victims become fearful through abuse, threats, and lies causing the trafficker to gain power of his/her victim

- **Victim**: Anyone

- **Buyer**: funds the human trafficking industry by purchasing goods and services i.e “Johns”, “tricks”, “clients”.
The Trafficker

- Is likely involved in a lucrative business enterprise
- They may know the victim and victim’s family
- Typically an older male with a younger female who seems to be controlling.
Who are traffickers?

Traffickers can be anyone:

- Men or Women
- Parents or Family members
- Neighbors
- Boyfriends/Girlfriends
- Peers
- Employers
- Brothel Owners
- Organized Crime Participants/Gang Members
The Four T’s

**TARGETING**
Seek vulnerable victims
Runaways, homeless, trouble at home, mental illness or learning disability, etc.
Have emotional and physical needs that are not being met

**TRICKING**
Investing time and effort to break down natural resistance and suspicion
Grooming process
Victims view trafficker as caretaker or boyfriend/girlfriend

**TURNING**
Once bond is formed, talked into “turning first trick”
Power and control tactics are used

**TRAUMATIZING**
Trauma bonding
Forced into commercial sex industry
Grooming Process

- **Step 1**: Target Victim
- **Step 2**: Gain Victim’s Trust
- **Step 3**: Fill a need
- **Step 4**: Isolation
- **Step 5**: Exploit the Relationship
- **Step 6**: Maintain Control
Signs of Child Grooming:

- Sudden changes in appearance and wearing more revealing clothing.
- Secretive about who they are talking to and where they are going.
- Often return home late or staying out all night.
- Becoming involved in drugs or alcohol.
- Emotionally volatile.
- Engaging less with their usual friends.
- Use of sexual language that you wouldn’t expect them to know.
- Switching to a new screen when you come near their electronic device.
Grooming as defined by a pimp...

- “You’ll start to dress her, think for her, own her. If you and your victim are sexually active, slow it down. After sex, take her shopping for one item. Hair and/or nails is fine. She’ll develop a feeling of accomplishment. The shopping after a month will be replaced with cash. The love making turns into raw sex. She’ll start to crave the intimacy and be willing to get back into your good graces. **After you have broken her spirit, she has no sense of self value. Now pimp, put a price tag on the item you have manufactured.**”

Quoted from “The Pimp Game”-Mickey Royal 1998
The Trafficked Person (Victim)

- Human Trafficking reaches every culture and demographics.
- *Regardless of their demographics,* victims are vulnerable in some way, and the traffickers will use their particular vulnerability to exploit the victim.
Child Sex Trafficking can occur through:

- Online advertisements of children for sale.
- Children working in sexually orientated businesses
- Producing, buying, selling or trading child pornography
- Buying, selling, trading of children for sexual exploitation for anything of value
- Fake child modeling agencies
- Children engaging in sex acts to acquire food, clothing or shelter (survival sex)
Child Trafficking Conditions:

- Average age of a child recruited or forced into prostitution: 11-14 years of age.

- Children may be subject to inhumane conditions:
  - Live where they work, usually in very poor conditions.
  - Subject to verbal, physical and sexual abuse.
  - Lack of basic necessities and no access to medical care.
Preying on Children

- Traffickers prey upon children because they are easier to manipulate and deceive.
  - Less life experience
  - Fewer coping mechanisms
  - Smaller social support mechanisms

- Traffickers often target children with vulnerabilities, including:
  - Lack of family support
  - Significant familial and school disruptions
  - Parental alcohol or substance abuse
  - Exposure to domestic violence
  - Lack of supervision, care, or basic necessities
  - Physical or sexual abuse histories
  - Low self-esteem
  - Runaway, delinquency, truancy
  - Foster care
  - Substance abuse
  - Poverty or limited resources
Human Trafficking and Technology

Social Networking

Pimps hit social networks to recruit underage girls to engage in commercial sex

- The pimps “searched Facebook for attractive young girls, and sent them messages telling them they were pretty and asking if they would like to make some money”

- If a girl expressed interest a gang member would arrange to meet up. At that point participation was no longer voluntary.

Messages provided by US Department of Justice. Visualization created by CNNMoney.

How are Victims Trafficked?

Force, fraud and coercion are methods used by traffickers.

**Force:** Rape, beatings, and confinement

**Fraud:** False and deceptive offers of employment, marriage, better living conditions.

**Coercion:** Threats of serious harm to, or physical restraint of, any person; any scheme, plan or pattern intended to cause victims to believe that failure to perform an act would result in restraint against them; or the abuse or threatened abuse of the legal process.
Victim Identification:
Social Indicators

- Excess amounts of cash
- Multiple hotel room keys to multiple hotels
- Chronic runaway/homeless youth
- Branding
- Hyper-vigilance or paranoia, nervousness, tension, etc.
- Not in control of their own money
Signs of Branding-
A tattoo, brand or carving on a victim that indicates ownership by a trafficker/pimp/gang.
“a psychological form of bondage” – trafficking survivor
Health Indicators

- Signs of Physical Abuse
- Evidence of Trauma
- Malnourishment
- Poor Dental Hygiene
- Psychological Problems

Interacting with Potential Victims
 Trafficked Persons and their Needs

Four general areas of a victim needs:

1. Immediate Assistance
2. Mental Health Assistance
3. Income Assistance/Employment
4. Legal Assistance
Victims won’t be cooperative when they feel:

- **Judged**
  - Looking or talking down to them

- **Lied to**
  - Don’t promise anything you can’t deliver
  - Don’t say “everything is going to be alright”

- **Disrespected**
  - Condescending behavior
  - Yelling at them
What does it look like in Minnesota?
Assessing the amount of victims in Minnesota is difficult:

- Human trafficking is a secretive crime and victims often are undiscovered, unidentified or misidentified.

- There currently is not systematic or centralized way to count victims that are identified and assisted.
Human Trafficking in Minnesota

- The Twin Cities has been identified by the FBI as one of the nation’s 13 largest centers for human trafficking of children (child prostitution).

- A November 2010 study found that, conservatively each month in Minnesota, at least 213 girls are sold for sex an average of five times per day through the internet and escort services. This statistic does not include hotel, street or gang activity.

- The same study in 2010 found that any given weekend night in Minnesota, 45 girls under age 18 are sold for sex through the internet and escort services.

- 75% of girls who are entangled in prostitution networks are controlled by a sex trafficker.

- In 2010 investigators from three states identified a large domestic prostitution ring involving a multigenerational Minnesota family based in Minneapolis trafficking mostly young girls across the United States.

- The average age of 13 was when most now adult females interviewed first traded sex.

- Approximately 50 percent of all trafficking victims are children.

- In 2010, the online sales of minor girls being sold for sex in MN increased by over 55% over a six month period.

- When asked, 89% of women and girls used in prostitution wanted to get out but didn’t know where to turn for help.
Sixty-six percent of service providers have served at least one victim of sex trafficking.

Forty percent of law enforcement respondents have had a sex trafficking arrest or investigation.
How are victims trafficked in Minnesota?

- Forced Prostitution
- Forced Pornography
- Forced Stripping
- Forced or Servile Marriages
- Survival Sex: exchange of sexual acts for basic subsistence needs
Interactions with Buyers
Interactions with Buyers

Online advertising is highly correlated with more buyers per day:

38% of victims that entered the life prior to 2004 report they were advertised online.

75% of victims that entered the life post 2004 report they were advertised online.
Victims that entered the life between 14-17 years of age report they often wrote their ads themselves with key words provided by their trafficker to signal they were underage.

The victim is likely to be younger than 14 years old when the trafficker is communicating with the buyers.
Victims Served by Service Providers in 2016:

**Victims of Sex Trafficking:**

- 24 adult males, 239 adult females, 27 juvenile males, 371 juvenile females
Victims Served by Service Providers in 2015:

Victims of Sex Trafficking:

21 adult males, 319 adult females, 36 juvenile males, 943 juvenile females
Law Enforcement

- In 2016 there were:
  - 94 sex trafficking cases

- In 2015 there were:
  - 336 sex trafficking investigations
  - 218 sex trafficking arrests
  - 113 sex trafficking charges filed
Duluth
Duluth

- Tract area.
- International Shipping Industry.
- Victims are transported aboard ships for weeks to months at a time.
- Native American and First Nations Victims.

Garden of Truth-Farley, Matthews, Deer, Lopez, Stark, Hudon 2011
“The Training Grounds”

- **Brainerd Lakes Area**: Close to the metro, new victims are brought to the area prior to moving on to larger metropolitan.

- **Bemidji**: Runaways are recruited from the area and seeing more of the “training ground” philosophy with increased ads being placed locally in 2017.
Bemidji
Bemidji

- Proactive buyer enforcement 2015
- Average response to ads placed over a three day period was greater than 500 email or text messages.
- Solicitation of minor exceeds prostitution related crimes.
- “Survival sex”
Native American Victims

- In 2015, service providers reported they worked with 42 Native American adult women and 44 Native American minor girls.

- Seven percent of Law Enforcement respondents reported investigations of sex trafficking involving Native American girls or women.
Top 5 Points of Access to Potential Help:

- General Social Services
- Law Enforcement
- Supportive Friends or Family
- Health Services
- Child Welfare System
FBI Special Agent Shawndada Drummond’s top tips for adults on how to protect children from Human Trafficking

- **Keep children busy and involved in activities**
- **Have open & honest dialog about human trafficking & predators**
- **Always make sure children are traveling in groups**
- **Be vigilant about checking children’s text messages, social media, messaging, and email accounts.**
- **Children should not be friends on social media with anyone they’ve never seen before in real life**
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