

Domestic Minor Sex Trafficking and Our Foster Youth

Part 1 & Part 2

I. Introduction

- A. Presenter-Jennifer Marks
- B. Credit-1 Hour
- C. <http://www.qpiflorida.org/justintime/pages/topicindex.html>

II. Objectives

- A. Definition per Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act
- B. Methods used to control victims
- C. Understand the vulnerability of children to domestic minor sex trafficking
- D. Pimp recruitment tactics
- E. Discuss reasons why victims don't self-report?
- F. Become aware of red flags

III. Presentation

- A. Types of Trafficking
 - 1. Human Trafficking
 - 2. Labor Trafficking
 - 3. Sex Trafficking
- B. According to Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act (TVPRA):
 - 1. Domestic Minor Sex Trafficking occurs when a U.S. citizen or legal permanent resident who has not attained the age of 18 years of age is engaged in a commercial sex act.
 - 2. Commercial sex act means any sex act on account of which anything of value (money, shelter, food, drugs, gifts, etc.) is given to or received by any person.
- C. Methods of Control (force)
 - 1. Kidnapping
 - 2. Hitting, kicking, pushing
 - 3. Torture
 - 4. Rape and harassment
 - 5. Confinement or kept under guard being tied up
 - 6. Forced into humiliating or compromising situations so that photographs or videos can be made
 - 7. Forced use of drugs or denial of drugs once a victim is addicted
 - 8. Threats of serious harm to the trafficked person or her/his friends and family at home
 - 9. Control of the trafficked person's children
 - 10. Punishment of another person in front of other victims to demonstrate what happens to those who disobey
 - 11. Trafficker controls all money
 - 12. Involvement of the victim in criminal activity, such as shoplifting, as a drug courier or manufacturer of drugs

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- D. Sex trafficking in the U.S.:
 1. Strip Clubs
 2. Latino Cantina Bars
 3. Hotel/motel rooms
 4. Brothels
 5. Pornography
 6. Phone chat lines
 7. Private parties
 8. Street based
- E. Vulnerability to domestic minor sex trafficking:
 1. Age
 2. Race
 3. Religion
 4. Socio-economic class
 5. Gender
 6. The National Runaway Switchboard estimates as many as 1.6 to 2.8 million children are on the streets of America at any time
 7. 1 out of every 3 teens on the street will be lured toward prostitution within 48 hours of leaving home. Statistically this means at least 150,000 children are lured into prostitution each year.
 8. The average age a female U.S. citizen enters the commercial sex trade is 12-14 years old and for boy is even younger at 11-13 years old.
- F. Youth in the child welfare system are particularly vulnerable to CSEC.
 1. Abuse and neglect, unstable placements, and lack of positive relationships create vulnerabilities that exploiters target
 2. 80-90% have been sexually abused.
 3. Studies have estimated that anywhere from 50%-80% of victims are or were formerly involved with child welfare
 4. Pimps target children with low self-esteem and social support
 5. **From a CSE Survivor: "being in foster care was the perfect training for commercial sexual exploitation. I was used to being moved without warning, without any say, not knowing where I was going or whether I was allowed to pack my clothes. After years in foster care, I didn't think anyone would want to take care of me unless they were paid. So, when my pimp expected me to make money to support 'the family', it made sense to me."**
 6. The average life expectancy of a child sex trafficking victim is 7 years.
 - a. Violence
 - b. Drug overdose
- G. Researchers have linked CSEC to the experience of hostages, prisoners of war, or concentration camps inmates...increased risk of both suicide and depression.
 1. The most prevalent long-term health consequences of sexual exploitation included headaches, fatigue, dizzy spells, back pain, stomach or abdominal pain, and difficulty remembering.

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- H. All pimps are traffickers
 - 1. "Pimps, who are motivated by the opportunity to make money, sell women, girls and boys in the commercial sex industry by using numerous methods to gain control over their bodies and minds." (Polaris Project)
 - 2. Motivation-It is estimated that an exploiter may earn as much as \$650,000 in a year be exploiting as few as four children.
 - 3. Characteristics of a trafficker:
 - a. Organized crime organization
 - b. Individuals (men and women, young and old, all ethnicities)
 - c. "Mom and Pop" organizations
 - d. Family members
 - e. Pimp:
 - Gorilla-force (physically/emotionally abusive; kidnapping; use of drugs/alcohol)
 - Romeo-declares love, lavishes gifts, promises
- I. Pimp recruitment tactics
 - 1. Seduction and attachment
 - 2. Isolation
 - 3. Coercion
 - 4. Violence
 - 5. Groom victims, pretend to be their significant other
 - 6. Shower victims with gifts
 - 7. Isolate victims from family, friends, and school
 - 8. Get victim hooked on drugs to increase dependence
 - 9. Re-name victim-erase former identity
 - 10. Methodically strip away self-esteem and assert total control-mandating how to walk, talk, what to wear, when to eat, when to sleep, and where to sleep
 - 11. Utilize bottom girls, madams, peers or relatives to recruit
 - 12. Utilize social media, internet offers for music tryouts, and jobs in other cities.
- J. **"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've manufactured."**-from an instructional manual for pimps
- K. Schools
 - 1. Children involved in commercial sex trafficking may be recruited by classmates at school who are doing the bidding if pimps.
 - 2. In Tennessee, a 49 year old man is accused of trafficking young girls from as many as 3 West Tennessee High Schools. The girls were reportedly recruited at their high school by a boy, younger than 18 years old, who told officials he had been working for Lilley six months. He was paid \$20.00 for every \$100.00 the girls brought in.

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- L. Why don't victims self-report?
 1. Captivity, confinement and isolation-victims are locked in rooms and trunks of cars, are isolated from friends and family, and are frequently moved from place to place
 2. Fear, shame, self-blame and hopelessness-victims have been so traumatized, they blame themselves for their abuse and/or see no way out of the situation. They are trained by pimps to tell lies and false stories, and victims often fear and distrust service providers and law enforcement,
 3. Dependency-victims have become physically, financially or emotionally depended on the trafficker; they have bonded with the abuser through traumatic bonding (Stockholm Syndrome)
- M. In Girls Like Us, human trafficking survivor Rachel Lloyd points out the four factors that cause Stockholm Syndrome are almost always present in prostitution. Traumatic bonding:
 1. Belief that the captors (pimps, madams, johns) can and will kill you
 2. Isolation from anyone except the captors
 3. Belief that escape is impossible
 4. Imagining the captor's smallest acts of kindness mean they really care about you---a coping mechanism that enables the victims to survive
- N. Red Flags
 1. Grades dropping, missing school
 2. Inappropriate dress
 3. Lack of personal hygiene
 4. Chronic runaway, homelessness, previous sexual abuse
 5. Getting sick a lot, urinary tract infections or bladder infections
 6. Depressed, exhausted, fearful
 7. Bruises, tattoos (branding)
 8. Having large amounts of money
 9. Older, dominating boyfriend
 10. New clothes and jewelry/expensive things
 11. Flash around money, fiercely protective of cell phones because they contain information about pimps
- O. If you suspect someone is a victim of DMST...call the NHTRC hotline