



The Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children (CSEC)

What Schools Need to Know to Understand and Respond to Human Trafficking





Meet Your Presenters

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Tell us about yourselves...



Which of the following best describes your role group?

- Educator (at school, district, or state level)
- Service provider (RHYA or HUD shelter, other)
- Legal (legal aid, law enforcement, juvenile justice, other)
- Government agency (local, state, or federal)
- Other

Today's Goals

- Gain a greater understanding of the issue of the commercial sexual exploitation of children (CSEC)
- Understand federal efforts to prevent and respond to human trafficking
- Learn practical strategies you can implement in your work
- Know where to go for more information

Why Trafficking?

- Statistics reveal
 - 60% of children estimated to be at risk of commercial sexual exploitation fall within the runaway or throwaway categories
 - Homeless youth, especially unaccompanied homeless youth, fall squarely within the high-risk profile for trafficking victims
 - Runaway and homeless youth are targeted frequently for recruitment by traffickers
- Schools are being used as recruiting grounds

Sex trafficking in the USA hits close to home

<http://www.usatoday.com/story/news/nation/2012/09/26/sex-trafficking-in-the-usa/1595489/>

September 2012

A plague more commonly associated with other countries has been taking young victims in the United States, one by one.



(Photo: H. Darr Beiser, USA TODAY)

STORY HIGHLIGHTS

- Thousands of girls are sexually exploited, often in plain sight
- President Obama has announced initiatives aimed at ending trafficking
- Schools are launching workshops, classroom lessons and outreach campaigns

WASHINGTON -- Asia Graves looks straight ahead as she calmly recalls the night a man paid \$200 on a Boston street to have sex with her.

She was 16, homeless, and desperate for food, shelter and stability. He was the first of dozens of men who would buy her thin cashew-colored body from a human trafficker who exploited her vulnerabilities and made her a prisoner for years.

"If we didn't call him daddy, he would slap us, beat us, choke us," said Graves, 24, of the man who organized the deals. "It's about love and thinking you're part of a family and a team. I couldn't leave because I thought he would kill me."

By day, she was a school girl who saw her family occasionally. At night, she became a slave to men who said they loved her and convinced her to trade her beauty for quick cash that they pocketed. Sold from Boston to Miami and back, Graves was one of thousands of young girls sexually exploited across the United States, often in plain sight.



Man charged with sex trafficking high school girls

<http://www.wmctv.com/story/23384223/man-charged-with-sex-trafficking-high-school-girls>

Millington, TN (outside of Memphis) | September 2013



Man charged with sex trafficking high school girls

A Millington man is accused of sex trafficking young girls from as many as three West Tennessee high schools.

What is Trafficking?

- Human trafficking is a form of modern-day slavery where people profit from the control and exploitation of others
- Every year, traffickers generate billions of dollars in profits by victimizing millions of people
- Human trafficking is considered to be one of the fastest growing criminal industries in the world



Federal Law and Definitions

- Victims of Trafficking and Violence Protection Act of 2000 (TVPA)
 - Sex Trafficking: The recruitment, harboring, transportation, provision, or obtaining of a person for the purpose of a commercial sex act
 - Commercial Sex Act: Any sex act on account of which **anything of value** is given to or received by any person

Federal Law and Definitions

Severe Forms of Trafficking: Sex trafficking in which a commercial sex act is induced by force, fraud, or coercion, or in which the person induced to perform such act has not attained 18 years of age

Victims of Trafficking and Violence Protection Act

Sex and Labor Trafficking: Function Based on Supply and Demand

- Victims of human trafficking include:
 - Children involved in the sex trade
 - Adults (18+) who are coerced or deceived into commercial sex acts
 - Anyone forced into different forms of labor or services



Reasons for Proliferation

- Easier to conceal than weapons
- Humans are a “renewable resource”; can be sold repeatedly, unlike drugs or weapons
- Internet is an easy, accessible venue; widespread, provides anonymity
- “Culture of sex”



Sex Trafficking in the U.S.

- Sex trafficking occurs when people are forced or coerced into the commercial sex trade against their will.
- Traffickers frequently target vulnerable people with histories of abuse, and then use violence, threats, false promises, debt bondage, or other forms of control and manipulation to keep victims involved in the sex industry.



A Global and Domestic Issue

- Sexual exploitation of women and children each year:
 - 400,000 in India
 - 244,000-325,000 in the United States
 - 200,000 in Thailand
 - 175,000 in Eastern and Central Europe
 - 100,000 in the Philippines
 - 100,000 in Taiwan
 - 100,000 in Brazil
 - 35,000 in West Africa



The Administration's Position



"Our fight against human trafficking is one of the great human rights causes of our time, and the United States will continue to lead it in partnership with you. The change we seek will not come easy, but we can draw strength from the movements of the past. For we know that every life saved - in the words of that great Proclamation - is "an act of justice," worthy of "the considerate judgment of mankind, and the gracious favor of Almighty God."



What do you think?

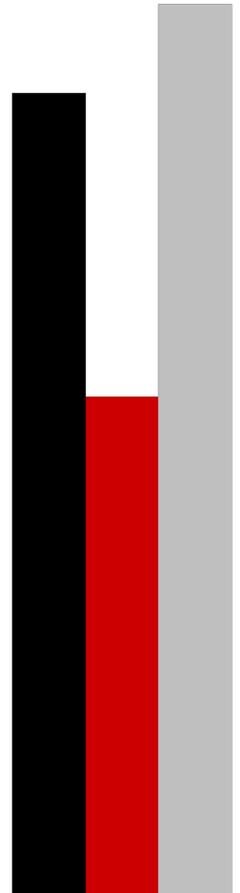


According to the federal definition, which of the following are sex trafficking?:

- A 17 year-old trading a sex act with his 13 year-old girlfriend for a place for them to sleep
- A mother trading a night with her 12-year-old son for drugs
- A little league coach sexually abusing players
- A gang member providing fellow members a “girl to have fun with” for higher status in the gang

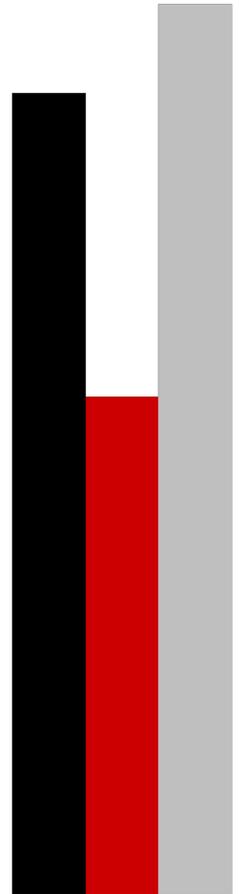
The Numbers

- September 2010 Congressional Testimony, NCMEC President
 - Between 100,000-300,000 youth victims of CSEC, mainly prostitution, in the United States each year
 - The number of 10-17 year olds involved in CSEC in the United States each year likely exceeds 250,000; 60% of these victims are runaway, throwaway, or homeless youth
 - As many as 1/3 of teen runaways/throwaways will become involved in prostitution within 48 hours of leaving home



The Numbers

- Covenant House Report:
 - Shelter is the #1 traded commodity in return for sexual activity; almost 50% of minors engaging in commercial sex do so for a place to stay
- FBI Bulletin:
 - Average age at which girls first become victims of prostitution is 12 to 14
 - Average age at which boys and transgender youth first become victims of prostitution is 11 to 13



Where is it happening?

- Higher volume of CSEC in the United States in urban areas, however...
- Youth may be brought from suburban or rural areas to be traded in urban centers
- There has been an increase in minor arrests related to CSEC in suburban and rural areas in recent years

What does it look like?

- Prostitution
- Escort services
- Pornography
- Strip clubs
- “Massage parlors”
- “Nail salons”



**LOOK
BENEATH
THE SURFACE**

**HUMAN TRAFFICKING IS
MODERN-DAY SLAVERY**

A victim of trafficking may look like many of the people you see everyday.

Ask the right questions and look for clues. You are vital because you may be the only outsider with the opportunity to speak with a victim.

There are safe housing, health, immigration, food, income, employment, legal and interpretation services available to victims, but first they must be found.

If you think someone is a victim of trafficking, call **1.888.3737.888**
For more information about human trafficking visit www.act.lhs.gov/trafficking.



What does it look like?

- Phone sex lines
- “Private parties”
- Gang-based prostitution
- Residential or commercial brothels
- Cyber market (craigslist, backpage.com, social media)
- Truck stops

Who trafficks?

- Individual pimps (males and females)
- Gangs and criminal networks
- Brothel and massage parlor owners
- Intimate partners
- Family members
- Fellow students
- People from all walks of life



*Houston Massage Therapist Charged In Child
Sex-Trafficking Case*

<http://news92fm.com/265122/houston-massage-therapist-charged-in-child-sex-trafficking-case/>

Houston, TX | July 2012



*Pimps guilty of trafficking teens to Kittery,
Maine brothel*

<http://www.seacoastonline.com/articles/20091107-NEWS-911079995>

Boston-based, multi-state trafficking |

November 2009



National sex trafficking ring possibly cracked with Durham arrests

<http://abclocal.go.com/wtvd/story?section=news/local&id=9123395>
Durham, NC | May 2013



Bloods gang members went to Brooklyn schools to recruit underage girls as hookers: prosecutors

<http://www.nydailynews.com/news/crime/bloods-gang-members-brooklyn-schools-recruit-underage-girls-hookers-prosecutors-article-1.180295>

New York City | June 2010

National Human Trafficking Resource Center Statistics

Time Frame: December 7, 2007-October 31, 2013

- Total signals: 102,476
 - Total calls: 92,265
 - Total emails: 6,432
 - Total webforms: 3,232
 - Total SMS Conversations: 547
- Total Number of Potential Trafficking Cases Reported to the NHTRC: 13,689
- Total Number of Victims Referenced: 11,979 (Only cases with high levels of trafficking)
- Total Calls from Survivors: 4,833
- Cases of Potential Sex Trafficking which involved Minor Victims: 3,113

Call 1-888-3737-888
Text BEFREE (233-733)



Vulnerabilities

- Children who experience sexual abuse are 28 times more likely to be arrested for prostitution at some point in their lives than children who did not.
- Youth who have experienced dating violence and rape are also at higher-risk for trafficking.
- Traffickers prey especially on children and youth with low self-esteem and minimal social support.
- These traits are highly prevalent among young people experiencing homelessness or those in foster care, due to their histories of abuse, neglect, and trauma.



Intersection with Child Welfare Systems

- The Los Angeles Probation Department identified that 59% of the 174 juveniles arrested on prostitution-related charges in the county were in the foster care system and victims were often recruited by sex traffickers and pimps from group homes.
- The California Child Welfare Council identified anywhere from 50% to 80% of victims of commercial sexual exploitation, including domestic child sex trafficking, are or were formerly involved with child welfare.
- The Department of Children and Families in Connecticut reported that 86 out of the 88 children identified as domestic child sex trafficking victims had been involved with child welfare services in some manner.



Runaway & Homeless Youth

- 1 out of 8 endangered runaway youth were victims of sex trafficking in 2012 (National Center for Missing and Exploited Children)
- 12% of youth experienced sex trafficking and 3% experienced labor trafficking (Covenant House, 2013)



LGBTQ Youth

- Particular populations merit special consideration, as they are characterized by additional vulnerabilities. Some evidence suggests that lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, or questioning (LGBTQ) youth can be up to five times more likely than heterosexual youth to be victims of trafficking, due to increased susceptibility that comes with the feelings of rejection and alienation that are often experienced by LGBTQ youth.



LGBTQ Youth

- Traffickers prey especially on children and youth with low self-esteem and minimal social support. These traits are highly prevalent among young people experiencing homelessness (LGBTQ) or those in foster care, due to their histories of abuse, neglect, and trauma.
- We know more about sex trafficking of girls than about sex trafficking of boys or LGBTQ community due both to current general public awareness and the types of situations identified by law enforcement and service providers.



Native American Youth

- Recent studies indicate that traffickers are targeting Native American children and youth who have trauma-related risk factors.
- On Native American reservations, the investigation of child sex trafficking involves complex and varied jurisdictional relationships between Federal, Tribal, and State governments.
- To most effectively identify and protect victims and to ensure culturally-relevant provision of services for Native American victims living on and off-reservation, tribes and urban Native American programs should be full partners in coordination of trafficking investigation and service delivery.



Impact of Victimization

- Beatings and rapes, including broken bones and untreated wounds and injuries;
- Reproductive health problems, including exposure to HIV and other sexually transmitted infections (STIs), fertility issues, and other gynecological diagnoses associated with sexual violence and rape;
- Mental health problems, including Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) and somatic complaints (e.g. headaches, chronic pain), resulting from trauma;



Impact of Victimization

- Malnutrition and alcohol and other drug use, which may be forced by the trafficker or used as a coping mechanism for abuse and trauma, and often leads to addiction. Extreme anxiety and fear;
- Changed relationships with others (including the inability to trust);
- Self-destructive behaviors (including suicide attempts);
- Changed feelings or beliefs about oneself (including profound shame and guilt);
- Changed perception of the perpetrator (including establishing a traumatic bond); and
- Despair and hopelessness.



Needs of Victims

- Child victims of trafficking often present unique needs and complexities that require additional attention and support from servicing agencies, providers and caregivers, and may include:
 - disengagement from most or all family structure
 - significant danger and concerns regarding safety
 - immigration and legal obligations (before and as part of achieving permanency)



Needs of Victims

- language and communication barriers;
- severe medical and dental needs
- compelling educational setbacks
- traumatic bonding and Stockholm syndrome
- severe social and emotional challenges to normalization
- prolonged effects of multiple and repeated traumatic experiences



Screening & Assessment

- Anti-trafficking experts have identified specific indicators and tools, beyond those that are typically included in the most common screening and assessment instruments,
- Such indicators include but are not limited to:
 - evidence of physical, mental, or emotional abuse
 - inability to speak on one's own behalf
 - inability to speak to an official alone



Screening & Assessment

- excess amounts of cash on-hand
- working for long hours, often with little or no pay
- presence of older male or boyfriend who seems controlling
- loyalty and positive feelings towards trafficker
- exhibition of fear, tension, shame, humiliation, nervousness
- lack of ability or unwillingness to identify him/herself as victim
- over-sexualized behavior.



Who are the Victims?

- Traffickers are masters of manipulation and exploiting vulnerabilities
 - Target at-risk populations
 - “Meet needs”
 - Threaten
 - Physically harm
 - Manipulate
 - “Trauma bond”
 - Brainwash
- Any child may be trafficked, but a profile of a high-risk youth has emerged



Victim Risk Factors

- Poverty
- History of sexual or physical abuse
- History of family or individual substance abuse
- Loss of a parent or caregiver
- Running away/being thrown away
- Lack of a support system
- Special education needs



Victim Risk Factors

- Running away/being “thrown away” (easy prey; traffickers target shelters and places where homeless youth congregate)
- Age (inexperience, self-esteem issues, need to belong)
- History of child welfare involvement





Victim Risk Factors

“The themes of trauma, abandonment, and disruption, begun in childhood, are central to the narratives of adolescent girls trafficked into commercial sexual exploitation. Girls describe having had a profound sense of being alone without resources.”

<http://aspe.hhs.gov/hsp/07/humantrafficking/litrev/>



Levels of Involvement

1. **Party Crews**
Still in school, beginning of the recruitment
2. **Campus and Neighborhood Exploitation**
Still in school, active truancy, decline in academic performance
3. **Completely in "The Life"**
No longer attending school, runaway, on the track and circuit

Trafficker Tactics



Source: The Polaris Project

Warning Signs

- Chronic running away
- Irregular school attendance
- A noticeably older “boyfriend” or “girlfriend”
- References frequent travel to other cities
- Bruising/signs of physical trauma
- Multiple STDs
- Signs of emotional distress, including depression, withdrawn behavior, and anxiety, submissive behaviors, paranoia
- Lacks personal identification documents

Warning >>> Danger >>> Warning >>> Dang

Warning Signs

- Unusual attachment to cellphone
- Strange tattoos
- Inappropriate dress
- Sudden change in possessions
- References to sexual situations beyond what is appropriate for age
- "A reputation"
- Defers to another person to speak for him or her in interactions with school officials



Warning >>> Danger >>> Warning >>> Dang

What Can Schools Do?

- Implement and enforce a protocol
 - Joint effort between school administration, law enforcement, mental health agencies, child welfare, victim services providers, other community agencies
 - Recognizing signs
 - Reporting
- Train staff on signs and action steps

What Can Schools Do?

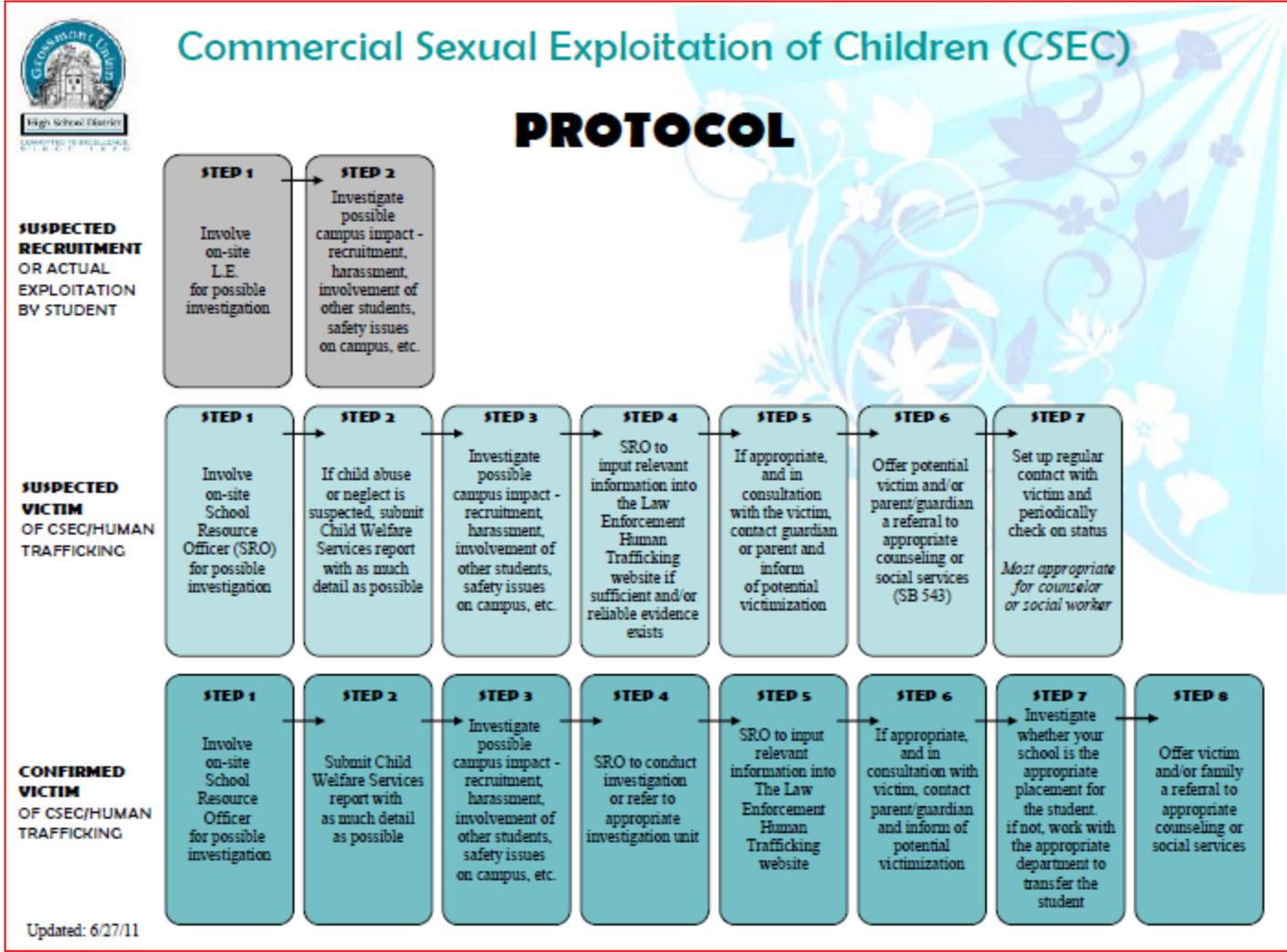
- Train counselors/social workers on how to work with CSEC victims
- Offer a developmentally appropriate prevention curriculum to students
 - The Prevention Project curriculum:
<http://richmondjusticeinitiative.com/prevention-project/>
 - Love146 Prevention Education:
<http://www.love146.org/prevention-education/>
 - FairGirls Tell Your Friends curriculum:
<http://www.fairgirls.org/page/tell-your-friends>
 - Oakland Public Schools:
<http://oaklandlocal.com/2013/08/oakland-schools-teach-trafficking-prevention-in-schools/>

Reporting a Suspected Incidence

- In the case of an immediate emergency, call your local police department or emergency access number (911).
- Call the National Human Trafficking Resource Center (NHTRC) at 1-888-3737-888
- The NHTRC is a national, toll-free hotline available to answer calls, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. The NHTRC is not a law enforcement or immigration authority and is operated by a nongovernmental organization funded by the federal government.



Sample Protocol - Grossmont Union High School District, San Diego



Updated: 6/27/11



More Information

- Polaris Project
 - Homepage
<http://www.polarisproject.org/>
 - Outreach and Awareness Materials
<http://www.polarisproject.org/resources/outreach-and-awareness-materials>
 - Online Training
<http://www.polarisproject.org/what-we-do/national-human-trafficking-hotline/access-training/online-training>
 - State-by-State Information
<http://www.polarisproject.org/state-map>

More Information

- NCHE Trafficking Webpage
<http://www.serve.org/nche/ibt/trafficking.php>
- U.S. Department of Health and Human Services | Resources
www.acf.hhs.gov/endtrafficking
- U.S. Department of Homeland Security | Blue Campaign
<http://www.dhs.gov/blue-campaign/blue-campaign>

More Information

- *Confronting Commercial Sexual Exploitation and Sex Trafficking of Minors in the United States*
<http://www.iom.edu/Reports/2013/Confronting-Commercial-Sexual-Exploitation-and-Sex-Trafficking-of-Minors-in-the-United-States.aspx>
- Guidance to States and Services on Addressing Human Trafficking of Children and Youth in the United States:
<http://www.acf.hhs.gov/blog/2013/09/much-anticipated-child-welfare-guidance-on-human-trafficking-released>
- Child Welfare Information Gateway
Connects child welfare and related professionals to comprehensive information and resources to help protect children and strengthen families.
https://www.childwelfare.gov/responding/human_trafficking.cfm

More Information

- Runaway and Homeless Youth Training & Technical Assistance Center Research Review on Child Trafficking
<http://www.rhyttac.net/sites/default/files/resources/EBP%20Literature%20Review%20Commercial%20Sexual%20Exploitation%20of%20Children%20and%20Trafficking.pdf>
- Services Available to Victims of Human Trafficking:
<http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/orr/resource/services-available-to-victims-of-human-trafficking>
- Office of Refugee Resettlement Fact Sheet on Child Trafficking
<http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/orr/resource/fact-sheet-child-victims-of-human-trafficking>

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