



Child Trafficking & Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children (CSEC)

What Every School Counselor Should Know

2013 Guidance Expo Conference
White Plains, NY

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+ What is Human Trafficking?

- **Sex trafficking:** “the recruitment, harboring, transportation, provision, or obtaining of a person for the purpose of a commercial sex act”
- **Labor trafficking:** “the recruitment, harboring, transportation, provision or obtaining of a person for labor or services, through the use of force, fraud or coercion for the purpose of subjection to involuntary servitude, peonage, debt bondage, or slavery”

- *Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 (TVPA)*

+ What is Child Trafficking?



A severe form of trafficking in which labor or a commercial sex act is induced by force, fraud or coercion to a person under 18

OR

when a person under 18 is induced to perform a commercial sex act



Image Source: HHS Rescue & Restore

+ Case Example – “Peter”

As a senior in high school, Peter was approached by a recruiter who told him he could travel around the U.S. and make \$350 a week selling skincare products. Peter joined a crew traveling in a van around the Midwest. The crew leaders charged exorbitant fees for transportation, lodging, food, and set fines if they were late or failed to meet sales quotas. If a crew member failed to make the quota for several days, he or she was denied food, and sometimes abandoned without any money. After being assaulted by a crew leader, Peter decided that he needed to leave. He called a friend from a pay phone, who helped him connect with a service provider.

+ What is CSEC & “Survival Sex”?

- **Commercial Sexual Exploitation of a Child (CSEC):** A youth (<18) engaged, solicited or forced to engage in a commercial sex act.
 - “Commercial sex act” may include direct sexual contact for something of value (e.g., food, shelter, money, drugs); pornography; stripping; live-sex shows; mail-order brides; military prostitution; sex tourism
- **Survival sex:** sex involving individuals who have traded sex acts to meet basic needs of survival (i.e., food, shelter, etc.) who felt that their circumstances left little or no other option.

+ Case Example – “Dalia”

Starting at age five, Dalia was repeatedly raped by her brother’s father. By 17, she was on her own and low on money. About once a month when she needed money to pay the rent, she would negotiate with men to exchange sex for money. At 19 she was heading out to a party with what she thought was a group of new friends, when she found herself alone in her room with one of them. The man pulled a gun on her and stated that he was a pimp and that from now on she should call him “daddy.” For the following three months, Dalia was forced to sleep with “too many men to count” and was watched every second. At some point she gained the trust of the woman in charge of guarding her, and Dalia was able to make her escape.



Child Abuse vs. Exploitation



Child Sex Abuse

- Child typically feels powerless
- Child not normally the seducer
- Child often appears withdrawn & quiet, though may also be loud, aggressive, self destructive behavior
- 'Inside system' – often still in school, clubs
- Usually kept secret from friends & peers
- Apart from abuser, people around say that it is a bad thing
- Wider community is sympathetic and supportive

Child Sexual Exploitation

- Child may feel powerful
- Child may act as the seducer
- Often expresses emotions (though typically not feelings) about CSE
- 'Outside system' – e.g., often not in school
- Usually not secret from friends & peers
- People in child's social circle may say that it is a good thing
- Wider community views behavior is negative

+ Child Trafficking: The Data

- 246 million exploited children (5-17) worldwide in debt bondage, forced recruitment for armed conflict, prostitution, pornography, illegal drug trade, illegal arms trade, etc.
- ~ 100,000 American children caught up in prostitution/yr
- Average age of entry into prostitution:
 - 12-14 for girls
 - 11-13 for boys
- CSEC is big money...
 - Pimp with a “stable” of three sex workers earns an average nightly quota of \$500 - \$1,500 → \$547,000+/yr



+ Child Trafficking & Exploitation: Methods of Control

- Seduction
- Force: Rape, beatings, confinement
- Fraud: False and deceptive offers
- Coercion: Threats, physical restraint, debt bondage, psychological manipulation, abuse/threatened abuse of legal process, etc.

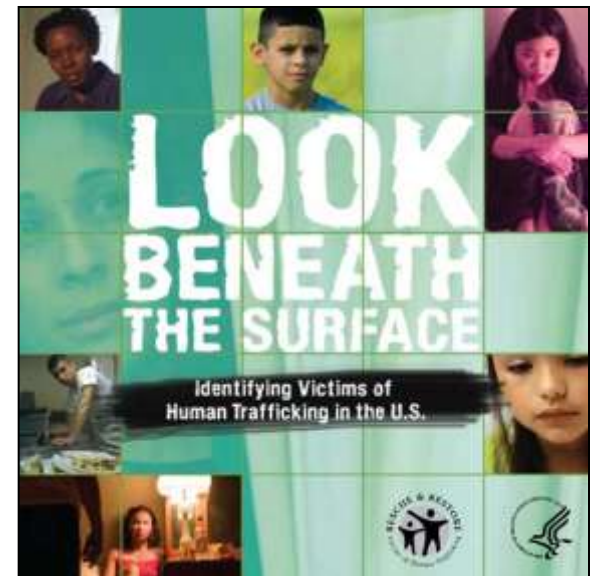




“I ran away. And I was gone for like a month or two and that’s when I got into prostitution... [I was] like 16. ... I met a...guy while I was on the run...I didn’t know that he was a pimp and we were friends at first. And um...he pretended to be my boyfriend for probably like 3 or 4 weeks and then...he um, took me shopping you know, bought me...a new wardrobe, shoes and at that age that kind of like, fascinates you. So, but when...he actually took me out like on the track...I never, you know, experienced nothing like that. So I was nervous but I felt like I had no other choice so I did it.”

+ Who are the Victims?

- Youth of any ethnicity, race, or religion
- Youth of any socio-economic class
- Female, male, and transgender youth
- Youth of all ages, including teenagers
- US citizen and immigrant youth
- Vulnerable youth
 - Youth with histories of abuse
 - Homeless, runaway & “throwaway” youth
 - LGBTQ youth
 - Youth in foster care system & child protective services
 - Refugees, immigrants, and non-English-speaking persons





“.....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.”

+ Who are the Traffickers?

- Men and women of varying ages, ethnicities, races
- Pimps
- Intimate partners/family members (e.g., boyfriend, spouse, father, mother, brother, uncle)
- Peers or group of peers (e.g., gang)
- Employers
- Coaches, teachers
- Strangers
- Anyone who benefits from or facilitates the commercial sexual exploitation of a minor, or who forces, defrauds or coerces a minor into labor/service

+ Who are the Traffickers?



Image Sources: top-rt: NY Daily News (2012); btm-rt: CBS New York (2011); lft: NY Daily News (2010)

+ How are Victims Recruited?

- Calculated targeting and recruitment (e.g., where homeless youth known to congregate)
- Online or in-person
- Approached as 'friend'
- Promises of love, devotion
- Everyday needs taken care of (e.g., shelter, food, clothing, etc.)
- Gifts, favors, attention
- Isolation & breakdown of safety net
- Sexual/intimate relationships

+ Case Example – “Jade”

In a panic, a distraught mother calls your school. Four days ago, the mother reported her 16-year-old daughter, Jade, missing to the local police department. She explained that Jade was last seen being dropped off by a friend at the house of a 31-year-old man whom Jade calls her boyfriend. The mother also added that Jade has a history of truancy and drug abuse. That evening, the mother’s nephew found photographs of Jade on various websites advertising escort services. The nephew also found advertisements for two other teenage students from your school associated with the same phone number as the one listed in the advertisement for Jade. The mother and her nephew concluded that Jade was being forced to engage in commercial sex by a pimp.

+ Why do Victims Stay?

- Grooming
 - Gifts, favors, attention
 - Trust love and devotion
 - Sexual/intimate relationship
- Breakdown of self-esteem
- Continuing use of physical and psychological torture with affection
- “Seasoning” (e.g., rape, sodomy, beatings, starvation, drug use, breakdown of resistance)
- New name / new family
- Consequences for disobeying; fear or retaliation

+ Red Flags – Child Labor Trafficking

- Child not in school
- Child not allowed to leave the house
- Child fearful of employer/host family
- Child has documents confiscated
- Locks on the outside of doors
- Child working but not getting paid; promise of future payment
- Mistrust of law enforcement or other person of authority
- Shows signs of injury or abuse

+ Red Flags – Child Sex Trafficking/ CSEC (1)

- Inappropriate dress
- Appear to be high or on drugs
- Curfew violation (out later than seems appropriate for age)
- Loitering or trespassing
- With an older male or female friend
- Does not know where to go to seek help
- Hotel room key/card
- Access to large amounts of money
- No ID / fake ID
- Poor personal hygiene
- Suspicious tattoos, branding or jewelry
- Appears lethargic
- Behavioral problems or outbursts



Red Flags – Child Sex Trafficking/ CSEC (2)



- Fear or inability to make eye contact
- Signs of injury or abuse
- Seems to be restricted from communicating
- Submissiveness
- Lack of knowledge about community
- Mistrust of LE or other person of authority
- Claims to be an adult but appearance suggests much younger
- Truancy or chronic absence from school
- Does poorly in school
- Inconsistencies in story
- Use of language from “the life”



CSEC - Common Terminology



- **The Life/The Game:** commercial sex industry
- **Daddy:** trafficker/pimp
- **Stable:** the group of workers that belong to a pimp
- **Wifey/Wife in law:** other women in the stable
- **Bottom Bitch/Bottom Girl:** the trafficker's head girl
- **John:** purchaser of sex/client
- **Track:** street location for commercial sex
- **Turnout:** someone who recruits you into the life
- **Square:** those who were never in the life
- **Quota:** the amount a victim must earn for her trafficker each night
- **Family/Folks:** the environment created by the trafficker (attempt to recreated the family structure many youth lack)

+ Emotional Impact of Child Trafficking/ CSEC

- Anger and rage
- Deep emotional pain/grieving
- Feelings of humiliation/shame
- Stigma of exploitation
- Self-blame/self-loathing
- Loss of sexual desire, feelings, or response
- Hopelessness
- Disruption of healthy psychological development
- Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD):
 - Flashbacks
 - Hyper-arousal
 - Startles easily
 - Panic symptoms
 - Suicidal ideation
 - Depression
 - Sleep disturbances
 - Bond to trafficker

+ Social Impact of Child Trafficking/ CSEC

- Isolation from peer group & mainstream society
- Stigmatization
- Disconnection from community
- Homelessness
- Incarceration/criminal record
- Disempowerment
- Disruption in education
- Lack of life skills
- Trust issues/difficulty maintaining relationships
- Difficulty finding employment

Source: Rafferty (2008); Delaney, Cotterill & Colin (2005)

+ Physical Impact of Child Trafficking/ CSEC

- Sexually transmitted infections (STIs), including HIV
- Pregnancy (wanted and unwanted)
- Miscarriages
- Unsafe abortions
- Sterility
- Facial/dental reconstruction
- Cuts/bruises/burns
- Broken bones
- Tattoos & branding
- Brain damage
- Substance abuse/addiction
- Self-cutting/injury
- Limited pre-natal/preventive care



Source: Rafferty (2008); Delaney, Cotterill & Colin (2005); Photos: ECPAT-USA (nd)

+ Typical Ways of Coping



- Substance abuse
- Materialistic attitude or ‘self indulgence’ (e.g., clothes, food etc.)
- Rationalizing (e.g., “we are professionals”)
- Pride in self sufficiency
- Disassociation (i.e., removing self from situation)
- Denial
- Secrecy / anonymity
- Stoicism (pretending that experience has no effect)



Systems Child Trafficking Victims May Encounter



- School staff (e.g., teachers, guidance counselors, coaches)
- Social service providers
- Community groups
- Religious/faith-based institutions
- Healthcare providers & clinics
- Mental health providers
- Runaway/homeless youth service providers
- Department of Social Services (DSS)
- Child Protective Services (CPS)
- Foster care system
- Law enforcement
- Department of Probation
- Court system

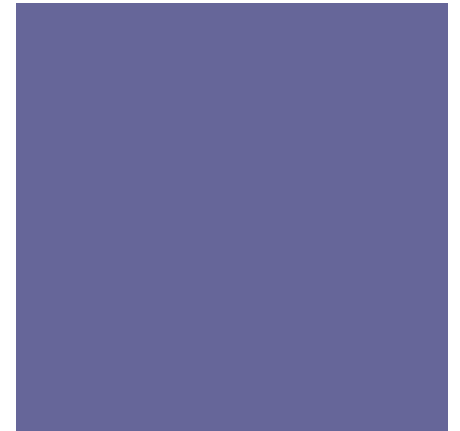


+ Barriers to Identification & Support

- Physical/psychological control by pimps/traffickers
- Youth trained by pimps/traffickers to lie
- Victims' distrust of service providers & law enforcement
- Youth not self-identifying as victims (minimizing abuse)
- Victims frequently moved from place to place
- Technology can help disguise the real age of the victim
- Ease of obtaining fake IDs
- Limited support services (including shelter) for minor victims
- Other facilities (e.g., RHY shelters, foster care homes) unable to adequately meet victim needs, including safety
- Lack of evidence-based screening or assessment tools
- General lack of public awareness



Addressing the Issue Locally



+ Legal Framework

- **Trafficking Victims Protection Act (TVPA) (2000)**
- **NYS Anti-Trafficking Law (2007)**
- **NYS Vacating Convictions Law (2010)**
- **NYS Safe Harbor for Exploited Children Act (2008)**
 - **Removes CSEC victims from the jurisdiction of the criminal justice & juvenile delinquency systems.**
 - **Protects victims and provides them with specialized services in recognition of their status as crime victims.**
 - **Amends NYS law to stiffen penalties.**
 - **Addresses prevention through training of law enforcement and general public.**

+ Westchester County Response



Westchester County Safe Harbor Program

- **Westchester DSS** has established specialized unit to address sexually exploited youth (e.g., screening, case management, referrals)
- **My Sisters' Place** to promote community awareness of child trafficking, sexual exploitation & Safe Harbor Program, and to provide case management services
- **Children's Village (CV)** to provide emergency shelter through Sanctuary and individual & group clinical services via CV Education & Employment Center in Yonkers



+ When Working with a Potential Victim

- Consider your language (e.g., “child prostitute;” “bad kid”)
- Careful of making promises
- Convey a sense of safety
- Clarify your role
- Clarify limits of confidentiality
- Allow youth to make choices
- Be aware of body language
- Avoid feeling or conveying pity, or a victim-blaming attitude
- Patience needed – take time to build rapport
- Remember: many victims have been coached to lie
- Find ways to speak to victim alone; once youth alone, simply ask if they feel safe
- Understand that some victims may have a hostile or negative attitude; they don’t trust the system or that there is any help for them

+ For Additional Information / Referrals

My Sisters' Place Human Trafficking Program

Lauren Pessa: (914) 683-1333 x140; lpessa@mispny.org

Suzanne Luntz: (914) 683 -1333 x128; sluntz@mispny.org

Westchester County Department of Social Services (DSS)

Philip Goldstein: (914) 995-9307; philip.goldstein@dfa.state.ny.us

Children's Village – The Sanctuary

1-888-997-1583

National Human Trafficking Resource Center

1-888-373-7888

National Center for Missing & Exploited Children

1-800-THE-LOST (1-800-843-5678)



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