

The Sordid Truth About Sex Trafficking

**Satellite Conference and Live Webcast
Thursday, December 13, 2018
10:00 – 12:30 p.m. Central Time**

**Produced by the Alabama Department of Public Health
Video Communications and Distance Learning Division**

Faculty

**Adam Morgan, MA
Executive Director
Camille Place**

**Rena Carpenter, MSW, LICSW, PIP
Social Services Director
Camille Place**

Key Statistics

- **Since 2007, the National Human Trafficking Hotline, operated by Polaris Project, has received reports of 34,700 sex trafficking cases inside the United States**
- **In 2017, the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children estimated that 1 in 7 endangered runaways reported to them were likely sex trafficking victims**

Key Statistics

- **Globally, the International Labor Organization estimates that there are 4.8 million people trapped in forced sexual exploitation globally**

Key Statistics

- **According to the National Runaway Hotline – 1 in 3 runaways will be lured into sex trafficking within 48 hours of leaving home**
- **According to the Dept. of Justice (DOJ) – 70% of traffickers (pimps) are male and each pimp can make \$200,000 per victim, annually**

Key Statistics

- **According to the National Center for Missing & Exploited Youth – pimps 'manage' 4-6 victims**
- **According to the International Labor Organization – amount of money generated from sex trafficking alone is \$99 Billion**

Key Statistics

- According to Shared Hope International – quotas are often set at \$300 - \$2,000 per day which means that victims are often sold from 10 – 30 times a day
- Child Rescue Network – average age of entry into 'the life' for girls in 13 years old, for boys it's 12 years of age

Key Statistics

- Major sporting events, tourists attractions, conventions, etc. are locations of sex trafficking where victims are brought in to be sold by traffickers

What is Sex Trafficking?

- The legal definition is based on the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 (TVPA)
- Sex trafficking – a 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

What is Sex Trafficking?

- Types of sex trafficking include prostitution, pornography, stripping, live-sex shows (both in-person and on-line), mail-order brides, military prostitution, and sex tourism



Types of Sex Trafficking

- Polaris Project studied 32,000 cases of human trafficking from data collected from their hotline and text line between December 2007 – December 2016
 1. Remote Interactive Sexual Acts
 2. Personal Sexual Servitude
 3. Pornography
 4. Bars, strip clubs, cantinas
 5. Residential Brothels

Types of Sex Trafficking

6. Outdoor Solicitation
7. Illicit Massage, Health & Beauty
8. Escort Services

Remote Interactive Sex Acts

- **Interactive sexual acts are live commercial acts simulated through remote contact between the buyer and victim**
 1. **Webcams**
 2. **Phone sex lines**
 3. **Text-based chats**

Personal Sexual Servitude

- **Occurs when a woman or girl is permanently sold (often by family to settle a debt) to an individual buyer for the explicit purpose of engaging in periodic sex acts over a long period of time**
 1. **Runaway/homeless youth and LGBTQ minors are especially vulnerable**
 2. **Also occurs in forced marriage situations**

Pornography

- **Family members, intimate partners, and individual sex traffickers can be perpetrators, earning a profit from distributing a victim's non-consenting appearance in pornographic materials**
 1. **Child pornography**
 2. **Revenge Porn**
 3. **Most victims are female but male victimization is four times the rate than in other sex trafficking types**

Bars, Strip Clubs, and Cantinas

- **Tend to be places where traffickers exploit for both labor and sex trafficking**
- **Victims are used to provide flirtatious companionship to entice buyers into purchasing high dollar drinks – often with an explicit or implicit agreement for commercial sex acts**
 1. **Some bars/cantinas are run entirely by organized trafficking networks**
 2. **Victims tend to be females between ages 14 – 29**

Residential

- **This can occur within organized residential brothels run by a coordinated network of traffickers or may occur in private households**
 1. **Advertising is through word of mouth, on-line ads, or previously on backpage.com**
 2. **May use covert business cards**
 3. **In private households, victims tend to be younger with many victims being both girls and boys**

Outdoor Solicitation

- **Traffickers force victims to find buyers in an outdoor or public setting**
- **In cities, this tends to occur in certain areas which are called a track or a stroll**
 1. **Truck stops**
 2. **Rest stops**
 3. **Street corner**

Outdoor Solicitation

4. Victims tend to have history of trauma/abuse, addiction, chronic mental health issues, and homelessness
5. Runaway youth are especially vulnerable

Illicit Massage, Health and Beauty Businesses

- These tend to be businesses with a façade of legitimate spa services but the primary business is the sex and labor industry
- There are at least 7,000 storefronts in the U.S. and probably far more

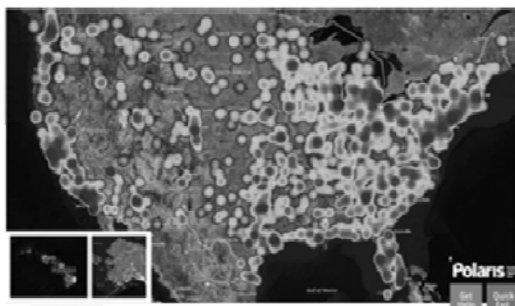
Illicit Massage, Health and Beauty Businesses

1. Victims in the massage industry tend to be older (mid-30's to late 50's)
2. Victims in the health and beauty businesses tend to be younger (mid-20's and older) from Southeast Asia

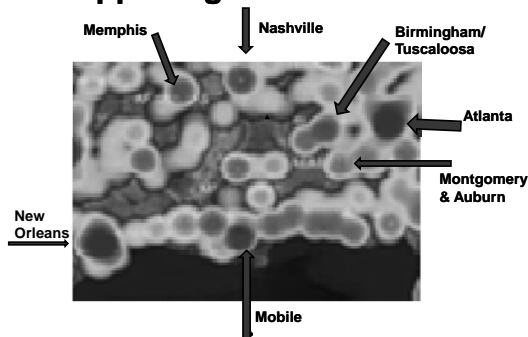
Escort Services

- Refers to commercial sex acts that primarily occur at a temporary indoor location
 1. Out-calls – trafficker delivers the victim to a private location
 2. In-calls – buyers cycle in and out of a location such as a hotel room

Where is Sex Trafficking Happening?



Where is Sex Trafficking Happening in the Southeast?



Minor Domestic Sex Trafficking

- Average age of entry into prostitution for teenage girls is 12-14 years
- Average age of entry into prostitution for boys is 11-13 years
- Safe Harbor Act of 2016 - children picked up for prostitution are treated as victims instead of offenders



Minor Domestic Sex Trafficking

- One of the highest risk activities associated with prostitution is running away



Minor Domestic Sex Trafficking

- Experts report that an adolescent who runs away is likely to be approached by a trafficker/pimp within 48 hours
- 40% - 50% of boys who end up in prostitution ran away or were thrown out of their homes due to sexual identity issues

Signs of Minor Domestic Sex Trafficking

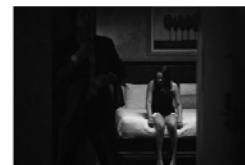
- Unexplained school absences
- An abrupt change in attire, behavior, or relationships
- The presence of an older "boyfriend"
- Travel with an older male who is not a guardian
- The sudden presence of expensive material possessions
- Chronic running away
- Homelessness

Signs of Minor Domestic Sex Trafficking

- Signs of psychological coercion, such as depression, anxiety, and/or an overly submissive attitude
- The youth's lack of control over his/her schedule, money, and/or proof of identification
- Signs of physical trauma, including bruises, cuts, burns, and/or scars

Who are the Victims?

1. Under 18 years of age induced into commercial sex trade
2. Adults, age 18 and over, who are induced into commercial sex trade through force, fraud, or coercion



Who are the Victims?

- Victims span all socio-economic backgrounds, span all races and ethnicities, having varying educational levels, are both citizens and foreign nationals, and may be documented or undocumented
- The one trait they share is vulnerability



What Makes a Person Vulnerable?

- Being a victim of domestic violence or sexual assault
- Being from a war-torn area
- Being a foreign national who has become indebted to intermediaries – often a sum that they can never repay
- Having been smuggled into the United States and owing debts to smugglers that they can not pay

Who are the traffickers?

- Most are men who lure and ensnare their victims with promises of:
 1. High-paying lucrative career
 2. A loving relationship
 3. Kidnapping/physical violence
- Frequently use substance abuse along with threats of violence/torture against victim/family as a means of control

Who are the traffickers?

- Some traffickers are lone individuals
- Some are part of extensive criminal networks
- They share a common thread – the willingness to exploit others to make a profit

Who are the traffickers?

- Familial Pimping is a growing problem that seems to be driven by the opioid crisis
- According to “Children of the Night,” an anti-trafficking non-profit, generally speaking, if a child is 10 years of age or younger and involved in prostitution, the parents are usually involved in the sexual exploitation of the child"



Steps Traffickers Take to Gain Control of Victims

Step one: Seasoning...

- gang rapes
- sexual assaults
- new names/identification
- dehumanization
- forced to watch porn
- learn how to speak/behavior



Steps Traffickers Take to Gain Control of Victims

Step two: Betrayal

- boyfriend becomes boss
- introduced to other women in the pimp's "stable"
- loving and calm home environment becomes violent
- Promises are broken

Steps Traffickers Take to Gain Control of Victims

Step three: take away her power

- Pimp controls all the money
- Pimps takes away her ID
- Threatens with violence
- Tells her she has no options
- Makes her totally dependent on him for everything
- Makes her feel like she is worthless

How Do Traffickers Control Their Victims?

- By utilizing multiple tactics such as physical assault, sexual assault, substance abuse, isolation from friends/family, and confiscation of identification and money
- They search for the vulnerabilities of their targets and exploit those vulnerabilities
- Initially it is seen as meeting a need but it quickly becomes their way of fostering dependence

Physical Health Issues Associated with Sex Trafficking

- Sexually transmitted infections
- Pelvic inflammatory disease
- Unplanned pregnancy/multiple abortions
- Broken bones
- Scars from burning, restraints, stabbing, etc.
- Vaginal and/or rectal scaring

Mental Health Issues Associated with Sex Trafficking

- High rate of Dissociative Disorders
- Self-destructive behaviors (cutting)
- Suicide Attempts
- Clinical Depression
- PTSD due to chronic trauma
- High incidence of trauma bonding
 - Adolescent girls are particularly vulnerable to Stockholm Syndrome

Identification of Victims

- Injuries similar to those of domestic violence and rape
- High risk of contracting STI's and becoming pregnant
- May seek assistance at homeless shelters or domestic violence shelters
- Law enforcement frequently come in contact with trafficked persons but have difficulty determining if they are victims or offenders

Identification of Victims

*Alabama Human Trafficking Safe Harbor Act 2016 – ensures that children charged with prostitution are treated as victims instead of offenders

Identification of Victims

- Frequently, victims will be branded or have tattoos depicting the street name of their pimp, crowns, money bags, dollar signs, a cluster of stars, and/or barcodes

Tattoos Associated with Sex Trafficking



Tattoos Associated with Sex Trafficking



Tattoos Associated with Sex Trafficking



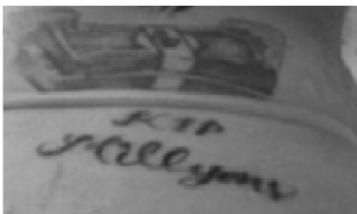
Tattoos Associated with Sex Trafficking

- Kip Millyons (street name of her pimp)
- Tattoo is located on the upper right hip of one of his victims



Tattoos Associated with Sex Trafficking

- Kip Millyons (street name of her pimp)
- Tattoo of two stacks of money



Tattoos Associated with Sex Trafficking

- Tattoos of stars (trail of stars) is a sign that this young woman is a victim of Pornography (porn star)



Tattoos Associated with Sex Trafficking



Needs of Sex Trafficking Victims

Emergency Needs:

safety/housing/food/clothing

Short term Needs:

legal assistance/medical care

substance abuse/counseling

Long term Needs:

Life skills/education

job skills/employment

reunification/repatriation

Resources

- Hotline (888) 373-7888
 - Polaris Project National Hotline
- Textline - Text BEFREE (233733)
 - Polaris Project
- (800) THE LOST
 - Center for Missing and Exploited Children

References

- Polarisproject.org
- <http://aspe.hhs.gov/report/human-trafficking-and-within-united-states>
- National Runaway Hotline
- www.doj.gov
- National Center for Missing and Exploited Children
- International Labor Organization

References

- www.sharedhope.org/the-problem
- <http://childrescuenetwork.org/know-the-facts/human-trafficking/what-is-human-trafficking/>

References

- www.childrenofthenight.org
- www.facasv.org/sites/Child-physical-and-sexual-abuse-as-common-factor-for-domestic-minor-sex-trafficking
- www.a21.org