

# RESPONDING TO THE SEXUAL EXPLOITATION AND TRAFFICKING OF YOUTH

## PRESENTED BY:

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## GOALS

### Participants will acquire a basic understanding of:

1. The commercial sexual exploitation of children (CSEC) in Washington
2. The impact of commercial sexual exploitation of youth
3. Identifying and engaging CSEC



## CSEC: AN OVERVIEW



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## FEDERAL DEFINITION: HUMAN TRAFFICKING

**Human Trafficking:** 18 U.S.C. § 1591 makes it illegal to recruit, entice, obtain, provide, solicit, patronize, move or harbor a person or to benefit from such activities knowing that the person will be caused to engage in commercial sex acts **where the person is under 18 or where force, fraud or coercion exists.** This statute does not require that either the defendant or the victim actually travel

**Commercial sex act** means any sex act on account of which *anything of value* is given to or received by any person. This includes:

Prostitution	Pornography/ web cam
Exotic dancing/stripping	Erotic/nude massage
Sex tourism	Gang based prostitution
Any transactional sex with a minor	

- 2008 Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act (TVPRA)

## WA STATE DEFINITION: CSAM

**RCW 9.68A.100**

**Commercial sexual abuse of a minor—Penalties—Consent of minor does not constitute defense.**

(1) A person is guilty of commercial sexual abuse of a minor if:

- (a) He or she **provides anything of value to a minor** or a third person as compensation for a minor having engaged in sexual conduct with him or her;
  - (b) He or she **provides or agrees to provide anything of value** to a minor or a third person pursuant to an understanding that in return therefore such minor will engage in sexual conduct with him or her; or
  - (c) He or she solicits, offers, or requests to engage in sexual conduct with a minor in return for anything of value.
- (2) Commercial sexual abuse of a minor is a class B felony punishable under chapter [9A.20](#) RCW.
- (3) In addition to any other penalty provided under chapter [9A.20](#) RCW, a person guilty of commercial sexual abuse of a minor is subject to the provisions under RCW [9A.88.130](#) and [9A.88.140](#).
- (4) Consent of a minor to the sexual conduct does not constitute a defense to any offense listed in this section.
- (5) For purposes of this section, "sexual conduct" means sexual intercourse or sexual contact, both as defined in chapter [9A.44](#) RCW.

## TYPES OF EXPLOITATION

**Pimps/3<sup>rd</sup> party trafficker (can be any gender)**

**Gang-based**

**Family-based**

**Survival Sex**

**"Independent", "self managed"**

**Peer to peer**

**Exploitation through other forms of the sex trades (strip clubs, webcam, private parties)**

*In each of these types, much of the exploitation is facilitated through the internet using commercial sex websites (ex: Backpage.com) or dating websites. Some exploitation still occurs on street tracks, in businesses and/or through familial/social networks*

## SEXUAL EXPLOITATION AFFECTS...

Youth of ALL genders (girls, boys, transgender, gender variant)

Youth of all sexual orientations

Any economic class

Any race

Any education level

However, sexual exploitation **disproportionately** affects young people experiencing poverty, homelessness and discrimination, particularly youth of color and LGBTQ2I youth

A number of studies have found that among homeless youth, there are comparable numbers of boys and girls who disclose sexual exploitation (ECPAT USA, 2013). See table:

*"Prevalence Rates of Commercial Sexual Exploitation among Homeless and Runaway Youth by Gender"*

## CSEC Breakdown by Gender

*Gender Breakdown Among Minors Reporting CSEC*

Author	Date	Sample Size	Ages	Location	% Males	% Females	% Transgender
Swaner, et al.	2016	949 youth who self-reported that they have had sex for money	13 to 24 years of age	Six sites: Atlantic City, the Bay Area, Chicago, Dallas, Miami, Las Vegas	36% of the sample were male	60% of the sample were female	5% of the sample were transgender (4% trans female, 1% trans male)
Curtis, et al.	2008	249 youth who self-reported participating in CSEC markets	Under the age of 18	New York City	45% of the sample were male	48% of the sample were female	8% of the sample were transgender

*Nationally Representative Literature Regarding the Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children by Gender*

Author	Date	Sample Size	Ages	Location	Overall Findings	Research Findings for Males	Research Findings for Females
Edwards, Iritani & Hallfors	2008	13,294 American Youth	7 <sup>th</sup> through 12 <sup>th</sup> grade	Nationally Representative	3.5% of all youth reported that they had exchanged sex for drugs or money.	67.9% of youth who reported they had exchanged sex were male.	32.1% of youth who reported they had exchanged sex were female.



## PREVALENCE

**100,000 to 293,000** children are sexually exploited each year; National Center for Missing and Exploited Children (NCMEC); 2001

**326,000** “at-risk” for commercial sexual exploitation Estes & Weiner, 2001; University of Pennsylvania

**300-500** youth are victims of CSEC each year in King County, WA (Boyer, 2008)

The National Center for Missing and Exploited Children (NCMEC) estimated that **one in five endangered runaways were likely sex trafficking victims** in 2015.



## RISK FACTORS

Individual	Environmental	Social
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• History of abuse or neglect</li> <li>• Mental health issues</li> <li>• Family dysfunction</li> <li>• Homelessness</li> <li>• Immigrant</li> <li>• People of color</li> <li>• Youth</li> <li>• Girls/women</li> <li>• LGBTQI</li> <li>• Low IQ or developmental assets</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Adult sex industry</li> <li>• Transient male populations</li> <li>• Substance abuse</li> <li>• Poverty</li> <li>• Violence</li> <li>• Use of women’s bodies in media/advertising</li> <li>• Glorification of “Pimp and Ho” subculture</li> <li>• Proximity to borders/ports</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sexism and Misogyny</li> <li>• Privilege</li> <li>• Racism</li> <li>• Homophobia</li> <li>• Transphobia</li> <li>• Classism</li> <li>• Acceptance of violence towards women and minority groups</li> <li>• Inaccessibility of legal economies</li> <li>• Materialism/consumers</li> </ul>



## GETTING STARTED: 5 LESSONS

1. Relationship IS the intervention
2. Address the subculture (prostitution, gangs, street life)
3. Re-frame the economic strategy
4. Develop partnerships and know your systems
5. This is the *long game*...



## WHY IS SUBCULTURE IMPORTANT?

Subculture teaches and reinforces the rules and norms  
(i.e. don't "snitch" or, "square" people won't help you)

Subculture becomes part of the identity of the exploited person; attachment to the subculture

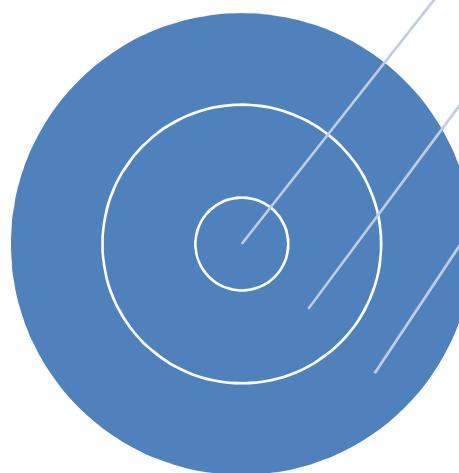
Subculture isolates people from the larger society and systems of care and justice

Subculture can also be a source of resilience

## CSE IMPACT ON YOUTH



## LAYERS OF IMPACT



Personal  
Relationships

Buyers/Clients

Societal  
Stigma



## PHYSICAL HEALTH IMPACTS

Lack of care to vision, dental, physical and mental health  
Educational losses  
Loss in “wages”; belief that “the life” is the only job for which they are qualified  
Cognitive issues from trauma, drug use or injury  
Pregnancy, STI's, chronic gynecological health issues  
Somatic issues (numbing, desensitization)  
Malnutrition  
Physical injuries, often left untreated



## MENTAL HEALTH IMPACTS

Disturbances of self or identity  
Decreased self esteem/self efficacy  
Shame, guilt and isolation  
Substance use/abuse  
Aggression and anti-social behaviors  
Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD)  
High-risk sexual behavior



## DRUG AND ALCOHOL USE

Drug and alcohol use is common part of the subculture however, drug use often comes after the exploitation

Drug and alcohol use are part of a numbing/dissociation

In situations where there is 3<sup>rd</sup> party control drugs are often given in limited amount to increase control

Visible signs of drug abuse will reduce “street value”

“Working” without using drugs or alcohol is difficult for many youth; they may need to work towards quitting both simultaneously



## WHAT IS TRAUMA BONDING?

The psychological bond between the pimp/trafficker  
and the victim is called:  
**Trauma Bonding**

This is defined as an attachment or relationship wherein the victim adopts the attitudes and worldview of an offender and becomes dependent on the offender for basic physical, emotional and psychological needs.

## PSYCHOLOGY OF TRAUMA BONDING

**Failure to self-identify** to family, service providers or the authorities

**Intense gratefulness** for small favors when the offender holds life and death power over the victim

**Denial of the extent of violence and harm** which the offender has inflicted or is obviously capable of inflicting

**Hyper-vigilance** with respect to the offender's needs and identification with offender's perspective on the world

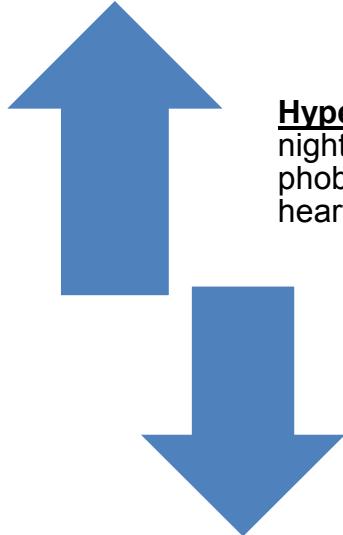
**Perception of those trying to assist in leaving “the life” as enemies** and perception of offender(s) as friends/trusted individuals

**Extreme difficulty leaving one's offender/pimp**, even after physical release has occurred.  
Paradoxically, women in prostitution may feel that they owe their lives to pimps.

**Going to extreme measures to protect or insulate the offender**

**Over time this leads to increased substance use and mental health issues**

### “MISSING THE DRAMA”



**Hyper arousal:** Anger, panic, nightmares, tantrums, phobias, paranoia, increased heart rate, adrenaline

**Dissociation:** Flat affect, dissociation, “numbing out” inattention, forgetfulness, pale skin, low heart rate

## IDENTIFICATION & ENGAGEMENT



## WA STATE: MANDATORY REPORTING

The Washington State Legislature's definition of child abuse and neglect includes domestic minor sex trafficking (DMST) victims. "Sexual exploitation," is defined in RCW 26.44.020 as:

(a)allowing, permitting, compelling, encouraging, aiding, or otherwise causing a child to engage in prostitution by any person.

As a result of the inclusion of sexual exploitation, which covers prostitution, pornography, and sexual performances, victims are considered abused or neglected for the purposes of Washington law and can receive a child protective response and CPS **may intervene** in the life of any child, under the age of 18 who is being sexually exploited **by any adult—familial or non-familial.**



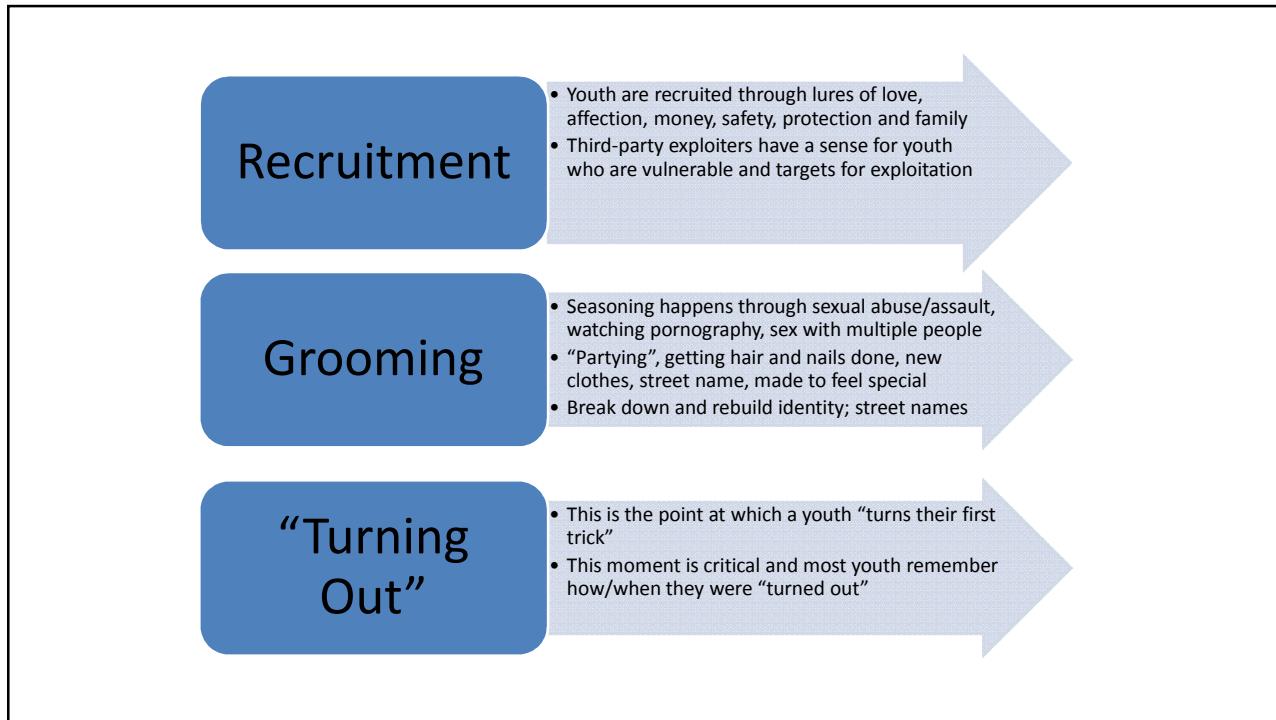
## RED FLAGS!

Chronically truant/runaway/homeless/gang-involved youth  
Multiple cell phones  
Having expensive goods or services that they cannot pay for  
Excess amount of cash  
Hotel room keys  
Signs of branding (tattoos, jewelry)  
Lying about age/false identification; inconsistencies  
Dramatic personality changes, evasive behavior especially around a new partner or new group of friends  
Lack of knowledge of a given community or whereabouts  
Provocative clothing, sex toys, multiple condoms, lube or other sexual devices



## IDENTIFICATION

Ask specific questions during screenings for risk factors or involvement.  
Increase attempts to track youth that are chronically running away and/or truancy.  
Consider significant behavior change especially if youth becomes secretive or has new “older” friends or a new partner  
Ask about STI’s, pregnancy, unexplained injuries  
Hyper-sexualized behavior, offering sex acts  
Observe communication patterns in school, clinics, drop-in or street outreach settings; who talks to who, who doesn’t?



## ASKING THE QUESTION

Have you ever traded sex for money or other things you need to survive? (Intake form)

***Sometimes people trade sex for money or because they have to survive, has that happened to you (is that going on in your life)?*** (In person interviewing)

I'm wondering if you are in the life? I will not judge you or anything you tell me. I'm here to listen if you ever want to talk or want support getting out.



## PAIR & SHARE

1. What CSEC red flags have you seen in your work with kids?
2. How have you identified youth in the past?
3. What concerns do you have with asking youth about possible CSE?
4. What is your “style” when talking with youth about CSE? What works? What doesn’t?



## STRATEGIES FOR IDENTIFYING WITHIN A SCHOOL SETTING

- CSEC knowledge within attendance review process
- Embed a screener within student engagement processes
  - Student Intervention Team, Coordination of Services Team, etc.
- Training and awareness for staff, health care professionals, school counselors, etc.
- Embed trauma informed practices within school programming and culture

## GUIDING PRINCIPLES OF ENGAGEMENT

- Maintain a **Compassionate** and **Non-judgmental** attitude at all times.
- **Be Consistent**; follow through on everything and do not make promises that cannot be kept.
- **Build Trust then Relationship**; this is a very slow process and relationship testing is expected.
- **Cultural Competency**; be sensitive to the unique cultural needs and experiences of each person. Personnel need to be aware of their own bias and cultural worldviews.
- **Self-determination and Empowerment**; youth should have information relevant to their situation and be encouraged to make informed decisions whenever possible. Respond to youth as **Survivors**.

## RELATIONSHIP BUILDING PROCESS

Rapport Building	Trust Building	Relationship Building	Support System Building
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identification</li> <li>• “getting to know you” level information</li> <li>• May need to show up multiple times before engagement occurs</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Be CONSISTENT</li> <li>• Show up and be present</li> <li>• Expect testing</li> <li>• Offer choices</li> <li>• Trust is built over time with small interactions</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pro-active communication from youth</li> <li>• Youth-led</li> <li>• Consistency</li> <li>• Advocate for the youth</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Leverage your relationship to increase youth support system</li> <li>• You should not be the “only” supportive relationship youth has</li> </ul>

## CSEC Outreach Services

We partner with schools, health care agencies, community based & faith based organizations to equip staff with knowledge about the commercial sexual exploitation of youth, and offer preventative and protective resources to youth.



### STAFF

- We want to support you!**
- Training
  - Ongoing Support



### YOUTH

- We want to empower youth!**
- Education & Skill Development
  - Referral & Resources



### SYSTEMS

- Let's work together!**
- System & Protocol Development

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THANK YOU!



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