

RESPONDING TO THE SEXUAL EXPLOITATION AND TRAFFICKING OF YOUTH

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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
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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:
- 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;
 - 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
 - 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/3rd 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 th through 12 th 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

- History of abuse or neglect
- Mental health issues
- Family dysfunction
- Homelessness
- Immigrant
- People of color
- Youth
- Girls/women
- LGBTQI
- Low IQ or developmental assets

Environmental

- Adult sex industry
- Transient male populations
- Substance abuse
- Poverty
- Violence
- Use of women's bodies in media/advertising
- Glorification of “Pimp and Ho” subculture
- Proximity to borders/ports

Social

- Sexism and Misogyny
- Privilege
- Racism
- Homophobia
- Transphobia
- Classism
- Acceptance of violence towards women and minority groups
- Inaccessibility of legal economies
- Materialism/consumers

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*...
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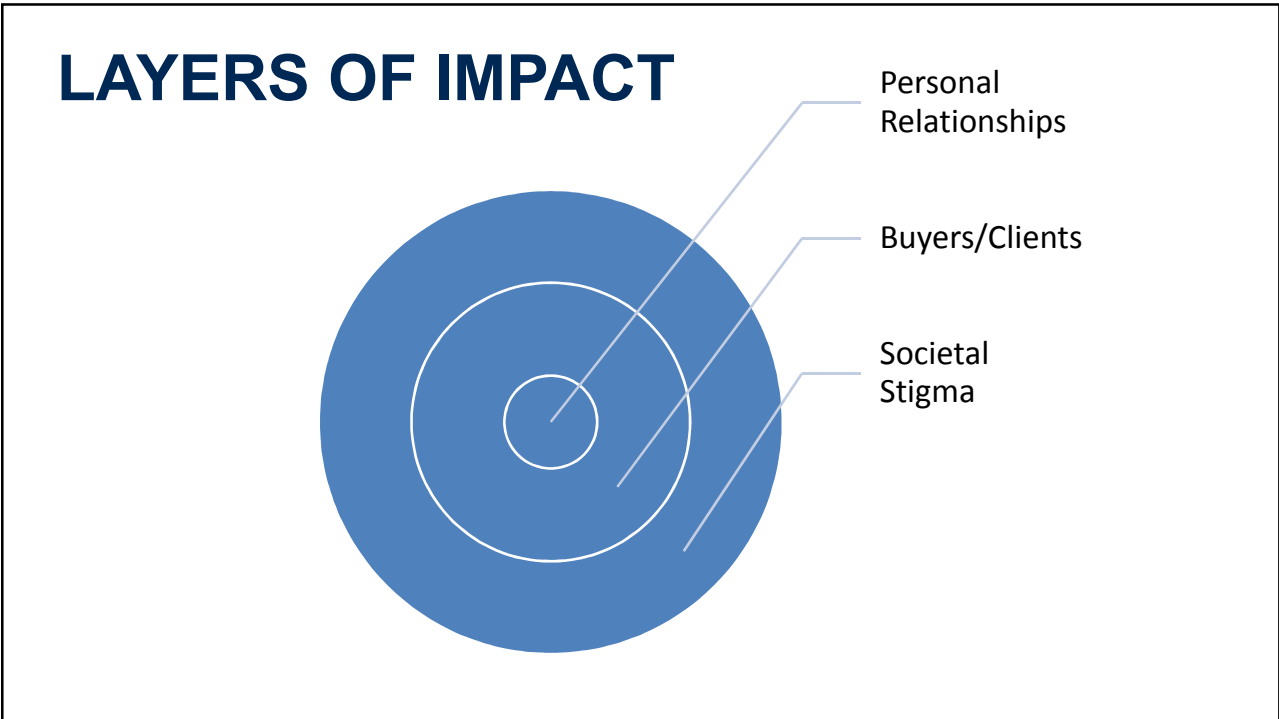
WHY IS SUBCULTURE IMPORTANT?

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



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 3rd 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

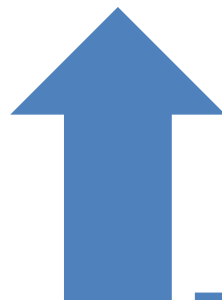
Perception of those trying to assist in leaving "the life" as enemies and perception of offender(s) as friends/trusted individuals

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.

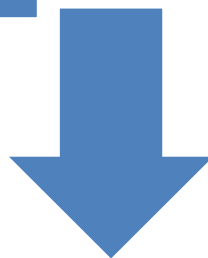
Going to extreme measures to protect or insulate the offender

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.

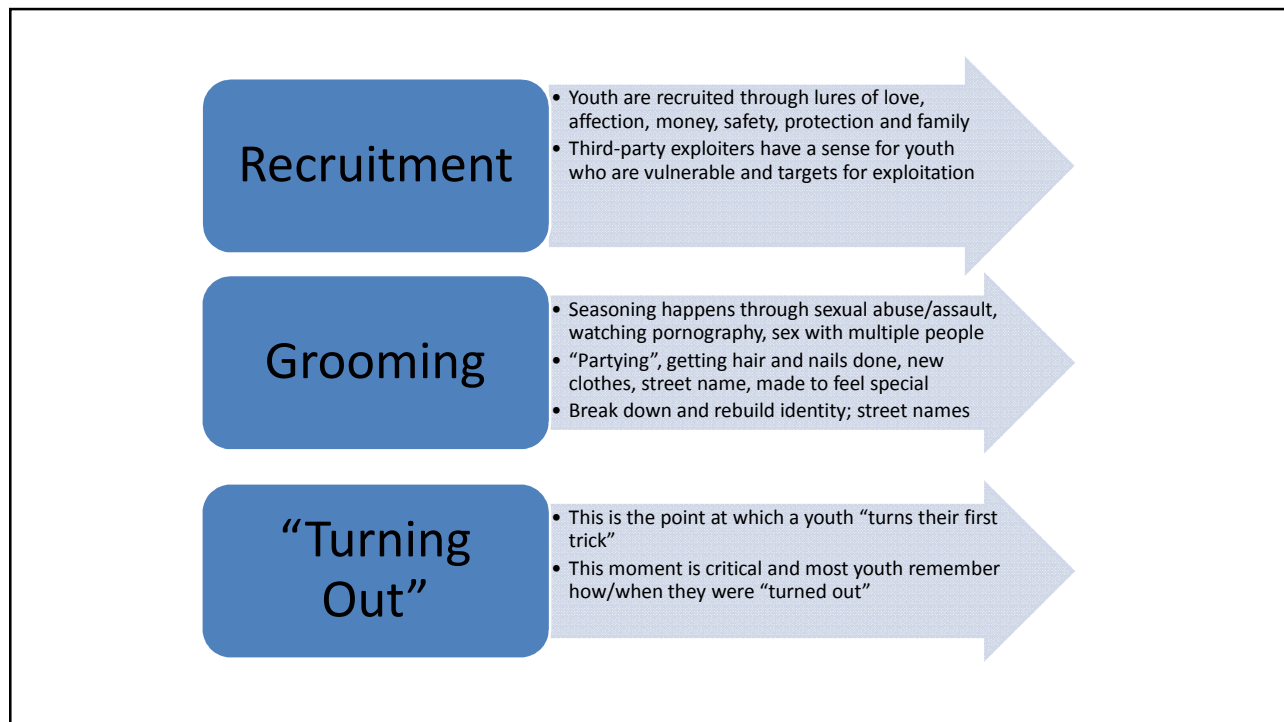
Increase attempts to track youth that are chronically running away and/or truancy.

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?

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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

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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

- Identification
- “getting to know you” level information
- May need to show up multiple times before engagement occurs

Trust Building

- Be **CONSISTENT**
- Show up and be present
- Expect testing
- Offer choices
- Trust is built over time with small interactions

Relationship Building

- Pro-active communication from youth
- Youth-led
- Consistency
- Advocate for the youth

Support System Building

- Leverage your relationship to increase youth support system
- You should not be the “only” supportive relationship youth has

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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