

Domestic Teen Sex Trafficking

Virginia Tenias De-Lopez



PARTNERING  CHANGE

Introduction

- ❑ The purpose of this presentation is to enhance awareness and knowledge about sex trafficking of adolescents in America
- ❑ Although male youths may also be victims of sex trafficking, this presentation will focus on female adolescents
- ❑ This presentation will discuss domestic teen or adolescent sex trafficking as a social problem that violates their human rights to live freely and safe
- ❑ The definition, risk factors, and health effects will be discussed along with the common methods of initiation and exploitation used by pimps and recruiters to force youths into prostitution and other types of the sex industry

Sex Trafficking Violates Human Rights

- ❑ Breaks the right of freedom by controlling other person's life, mind, and body (Herzog, 2008)
- ❑ Adolescents who are enslaved in the sex trade are the most oppressed individuals (Hodge and Lietz, 2007)
- ❑ Adolescents involved in sex trafficking are victims of human trafficking (The U.S. Department of States, 2009)

Sex Trafficking is a Form of Human Trafficking

- ❑ Under the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 (TVPA) and its 2003, 2005, and 2008 reauthorizations, human trafficking occurs if a person is **induced** to perform labor or a commercial sex act through force, fraud, or coercion.
- ❑ Any person under age 18 who performs a commercial sex act is considered a victim of human trafficking, regardless of whether force, fraud, or coercion were present
- ❑ In order for the act to be defined as Human Trafficking it is NOT a requirement that movement be across borders

Definition of Sex Trafficking

- ❑ Sex trafficking is defined as the recruitment, harboring, transportation, provision, or obtaining of a person for the purpose of a commercial sex act (P.L. 106-386:§103 (9))
- ❑ Domestic minor sex trafficking is when a U.S. citizen or legal permanent resident who is under 18 years of age is engaged in a commercial sex act.
- ❑ A commercial sexual act is defined as any sex act in which anything of value is given or received by any person (P.L. 106-386: §103 (3))
- ❑ These definitions are from the Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act (TVPRA) of 2005

Sex Trafficking Identified as a Domestic Problem

- ❑ “More than 250,000 American-born youths are at risk of sexual exploitation each year and the possibility of child being sexually exploited is greater than the risk of death caused by firearms, accidents, homicides, and suicides” (Boxill and Richardson, 2007, p. 140)
- ❑ “The best estimates, the best data, suggests that we at least have 100,000 American kids a year are victimized through the practice of child prostitution; that number ranges as high as 300,000” (Allen, 2008 cited in Smith et al., 2009)
- ❑ Estimated number of an approximate 1.6 million runaway/throwaway youths are at risk of sexual exploitation in 1999 (U.S. Department of Justice: Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, *Runaway/Throwaway Children: National Estimates and Characteristics. NISMART Series: 2002.*

Sex Trafficking as a Domestic Problem

- Based on a study in San Francisco, it was found that 78 % of street prostitutes reported starting as juveniles, with 60% starting when they were 16 years old or younger (U.S. Department of Justice, 2009)
- One in three runaway youth will be approached within 38 hours of being on the street for the purpose of commercial sexual exploitation (Macdonald, 2009)

Sex Trafficking Is a Form of Human Trafficking

- ❑ Over the 21-month reporting period captured by the Human Trafficking Reporting System (HTRS) task forces reported investigating 1,229 alleged incidents of human trafficking

- ❑ Of the 1,229 total incidents of human trafficking logged into the HTRS in 2007 and 2008:
 - ❑ 83 % involved sex trafficking
 - ❑ 12% involved labor trafficking
 - ❑ 5 % involved other or unknown types of human trafficking

- (From: Biennial Comprehensive Research and Statistical Review and Analysis of Severe Forms of Trafficking, Sex Trafficking and Unlawful Commercial Sex Acts in the United States May 2009 by Bureau of Justice Statistics National Institute of Justice)

Sex Trafficking as a Domestic Problem

Of the 1,018 alleged sex trafficking incidents reported:

- 38% involved allegations of child sex trafficking
- 62% involved allegations of adult sex trafficking, such as forced prostitution or other sex trafficking crimes

(Bureau of Justice Statistics, 2009)

Forms of Sexual Exploitation

- Pornography
- Strip clubs
- Prostitution
- Escort services
- Brothels
- Sex tourism
- Live sex shows

Myths

- ❑ Myth 1: Prostitution and other forms of sexual exploitation are natural expressions of sexuality and necessities for insufficient sexual relationships
- ❑ Myth 2: Adolescents freely choose stay in prostitution and/other forms of sexual exploitation
- ❑ Myth 3: Prostitution can be an exciting and glamorous life
- ❑ Myth 4: Adolescents have power and control within the system

(Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention and the Office for Victims of Crime, Office of Justice Programs, U.S. Department of Justice, 2002)

Who are the victims?

- ❑ Female adolescents of any age, ethnicity, race, or religion
- ❑ Female adolescents of any socio-economic class
- ❑ Vulnerable female adolescents



Risk Factors

- A history of sexual abuse
- Domestic violence at home
- Lack of Knowledge
- Low self-esteem
- Age

Age

- ❑ Among prostituted women, the average age for the first act of prostitution is 14 to 19 years (Weisberg, 1985 and O'Leary, 2001).
- ❑ 12-14 is the average age of entry into pornography and prostitution in the U.S.
 - ❑ (U.S. Department of Justice - Child Exploitation and Obscenity Section, CEOS)
- ❑ Recent studies indicate the age for entering into prostitution is dropping to 13 and younger (Klain).

Effects on Victims

- ❑ Several types of posttraumatic effects such as physical, psychological, and behavioral problems
- ❑ 35% percent U.S. females reported serious broken bones and other physical injuries as a result of the violence and sexual exploitation
- ❑ Psychological reactions to trauma such as depression, anxiety, hostility and irritability, recurring nightmares and memories of abuse, difficulty concentrating and sleeping, and feelings of apathy or emotional detachment
- ❑ At risk for getting HIV and other sexually transmitted diseases

Who are the Pimps/Traffickers/Buyers?

- ❑ A pimp/trafficker is anyone who receives cash or other benefits in exchange for sex with a victim
- ❑ Family members, friends, and boyfriends have been identified as pimps
- ❑ Many buyers can be anyone - young and old, locals and tourists, students and professionals, family and strangers

(Smith et al., 2009)

Methods Used by Traffickers

Fraud: False deceptive offers of employment, marriage, better life, etc.

Cases:

- ❑ In 2005 two youths were convinced and kept by a man to sign a modeling contract with his modeling/casting company and received large sum of money in Atlanta
- ❑ In 2004, a pimp recruited seven girls between 13 and 18 year old by going to hip-hop concerts and promised concert tickets to the youngest as well as expensive clothing if the girls would hang out with him

(U.S. the Department of Justice Press Release, 2009)

Methods Used by Traffickers

- ❑ Pimps go to bus terminals to recruit many teens who run away from home via bus
- ❑ Pimps may also use large shopping complex in the United States to recruit the young who hang out there

(U.S. the Department of Justice Press Release, 2009)

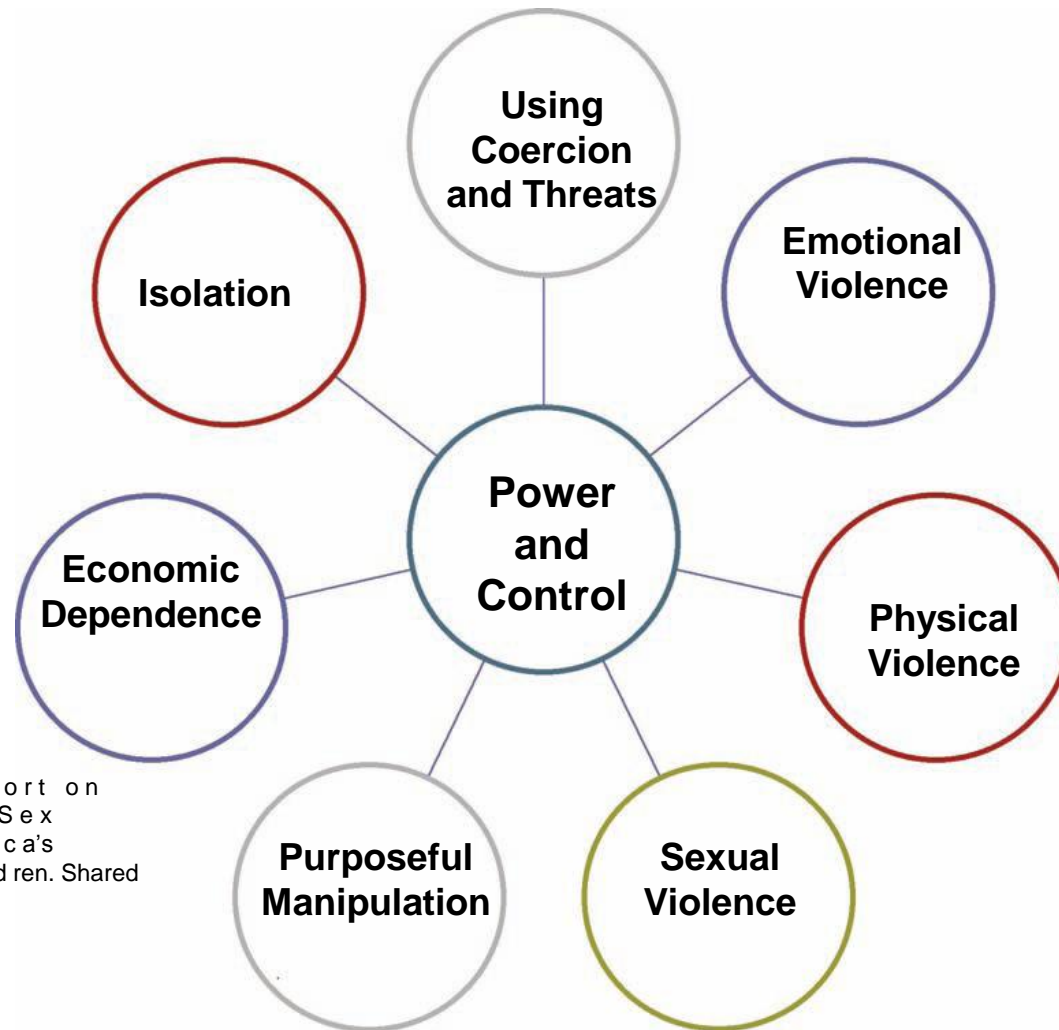
Methods Used by Traffickers

FORCE: Rape, beatings, constraint, confinement, drugs, etc.

- ❑ Pimps provide girls with drugs to make them addicts. A report describes that girls exchange sex for drugs to feed their addiction, (Hofstede Committee in Minnesota, 1999)

COERCION: Threats of serious harm or physical restraint. Any scheme, plan or pattern intended to cause victims to believe that failure to perform an act would result in restraint against them.

Domestic Minor Sex Trafficking Power and Control Wheel



The National Report on Domestic Minor Sex Trafficking: America's Prostituted Children. Shared Hope International, 2009

Social Work Implications

- ❑ Advocacy strategies should be designed to protect victims, develop prevention efforts, and prosecute pimps/traffickers
- ❑ Pimps/traffickers must be punished rather than young women who are victimized by them
- ❑ Social workers must work to guarantee that the human rights of the victims are protected
- ❑ Appropriate shelters and services are needed for the protection

Example of Intervention

<http://www.gems-girls.org/>

References

- ❑ Batsyukova, S. (2007). Prostitution and human trafficking for sexual exploitation. *Gender Issues, 24*, 46-50.
- ❑ Boxill, N., and Richardson, D. (2007). Ending sex trafficking of Children in Atlanta. *Affilia: Journal of Women and Social Work, 22*, (2), 138-149
- ❑ Cauce, A. M., Stewart, A., Whitbeck, L. B., Paradise, M., & Hoyt, D. R. (2005). Girls on their own: Homelessness in female adolescents. In D. J. Bell, S. L. Foster & E. J. Mash (Eds.), *Handbook of behavioral and emotional problems in girls* (pp. 439–462). New York: Kluwer.
- ❑ Cochran B., Stewart A., Ginzler J., Cauce A, (2002) Challenges faced by homeless sexual minorities: comparison of gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender homeless adolescents with their heterosexual counterparts. *American Journal of Public Health, 92* (5), 773-777
- ❑ Crawford, M. & Kaufman, M.R. (2008). Sex trafficking in Nepal: Survivor characteristics and long-term outcomes. *Violence Against Women, 14*(8), 905-916.
- ❑ Fraser, M. W., Kirby, L. D., & Smokowski, P. R. (2004). Chapter 1: "Risk and resilience in childhood." In M. W. Fraser (Ed.) *Risk and Resilience in Childhood: An Ecological Perspective*. Second Edition. Washington, DC: NSAW Press.

References

- ❑ Giobbe, E. (1998). A comparison of pimps and batterers. Retrieved from <http://www.prostitutionresearch.com/giobbe.html>
- ❑ Herzog, S. (2008). The lenient social and legal response to trafficking in women: An empirical analysis of public perceptions in Israel. *Journal of Contemporary Criminal Justice*, 24(3), 314-333
- ❑ Hodge, D.R. (2008). Sexual Trafficking in the United States: A Domestic Problem with Transnational Dimensions. *Journal of Social Work*, 53(2), 143-152.
- ❑ Hodge, D.R. & Lietz, C.A. (2007). The international sexual trafficking of women and children: A review of the literature. *Affilia: Journal of Women and Social Work*, 22(2), 163-174.
- ❑ Hosey, J. and Clune, D. (2002). We can do better: Helping prostituted women and girls in Grand Rapids make healthy choices. A prostitution round table report to the community. The Nokomis Foundation New Voices Initiative. Retrieved from www.nokomisfoundation.org
- ❑ Macdonald, K., (2009). Human trafficking: a service provider's guide to recognizing and assisting victims of modern day slavery. Retrieved from <http://www.nacsw.org>

References

- ❑ United Nations, (2009). Global report on trafficking in persons. Retrieved from <http://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/human-trafficking/global-report-on-trafficking-in-persons.html>
- ❑ Raymond, J., and Hughes, D. (2001). Sex trafficking of women in the United States: International and Domestic trends. Retrieved from Coalition against Trafficking in Women: <http://www.ncjrs.gov/pdffiles1/nij/grants/187774.pdf>
- ❑ Smith, L. A., Healy, S., and Snow, M. (2009). The National Report on Domestic Minor Sex Trafficking: America's Prostituted Children. Shared Hope International
- ❑ Simmons, C., Lehman, P. and Colleir-Tenison (2008). Men's use of controlling behaviors: a comparison of reports by women in a domestic violence shelter and women in a domestic violence offender program. *Journal of Family Violence*, 23 (6)
- ❑ Spidel, A., Greaves, C., Cooper, B. S., Hervé, H., Hare, R. D., & Yuille, J. C. (2006). The psychopath as pimp. *Canadian Journal of Police and Security Services*, 4, 205-211.
- ❑ Tjaden, P. G., Thoennes, N., National Institute of Justice, & Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. (2000). Extent, nature and consequences of intimate partner violence: Findings from the national violence against women survey (NCJ181867). Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Justice.

References

- ❑ Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000, Div. A of Pub. L. No. 106-386. Retrieved from <http://frwebgate.access.gpo.gov/>
- ❑ The Hofstede Committee report (1999). Juvenile in 1999. State of Minnesota, Office of attorney General: St, Paul, MN. Retrieved from <http://www.ag.state.mn.us/home/files/news/hofstede.htm>
- ❑ The U.S. Department of State. (2009). *Trafficking in persons report*. Retrieved from U.S. Department of State: <http://www.state.gov/g/tip/rls/tiprpt/2009/index.htm>
- ❑ The U.S. Department of State. (2008). *Trafficking in persons report*. Retrieved from the U.S. Department of State: <http://www.state.gov/documents/organization/105501.pdf>
- ❑ The U.S. Department of State (2002). Protecting our Children: working together to end child prostitution. Retrieved from <http://www.ncjrs.gov/pdffiles1/ojjdp/204990.pdf>
- ❑ The U.S. Department of Justice Press Release (2009). Retrieved from <http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov>
- ❑ Urbina, I. (2009) New York Time Article: Running in the Shadows. Retrieved from <http://www.nytimes.com/2009/10/26/us/26runaway.html>