



CONNECTING THE DOTS: THE LINK BETWEEN SUBSTANCE ABUSE AND HUMAN TRAFFICKING

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THIS PRESENTATION WILL PROVIDE AN OVERVIEW OF FACTORS THAT LINK HUMAN TRAFFICKING TO SUBSTANCE USE

- Human traffickers are master manipulators that target a person's vulnerability. A person with a substance abuse addiction is in one of the highest categories to be trafficked. The person with the addiction may be seeking ways to support their drug habit and traffickers are actively searching for people with vulnerabilities to exploit.
- Traffickers use substances as a means of coercion, to get victims to obey their demands, work longer hours, comply to their rules, decrease attempts to leave their abusive situation, and keep them in the life.
- Many victims also use substances as a means of coping with past and/or present trauma. Furthermore, victims often engaged in forced criminality due to their traffickers require them to participate in criminal activities.



UNDERSTANDING TRAFFICKERS RECRUITMENT TECHNIQUES

- Substance use is one of the most influential techniques that human traffickers use to coerce, manipulate, and exploit their victims.
- Substances is commonly used to prey on the persons vulnerabilities that leads to the recruitment of labor and sex trafficking.
- The trafficker may recruit people by luring them with drugs and alcohol. The traffickers may target individuals with existing substance abuse issues to recruit into a trafficking situation. The trafficker may also control their victim once they have a Substance Addiction. The Traffickers may also use substance addiction to keep victims in a trafficking situation.
- Substances can be used as a reward or punishment, or to decrease the victim's ability to resist trafficking and abuse.
- The victim may also use substance abuse as a coping mechanism. Some victims of human trafficking may abuse substances as a response to the trauma of their trafficking victimization.



HUMAN TRAFFICKING



*The recruitment, harboring, transportation, provision or obtaining of a person for labor or services through the use of force, fraud, or coercion. Under federal and state of FL law, sex trafficking (such as prostitution, pornography, exotic dancing, etc.) **does not require there be force, fraud, or coercion if the victim is under 18.***



HUMAN TRAFFICKING TYPES

Based on federal law definitions:

Sex Trafficking

Recruitment, harboring, transportation, provision, obtaining, patronizing or soliciting of a person for the purpose of a commercial sex act, in which the *commercial sex act is induced by force, fraud, or coercion or in which the person induced to perform such act has not attained 18 years of age.

*Commercial Sex Act

Any sex act on account of which anything of value is given to or received by any person

Labor Trafficking

Recruitment, harboring, transportation, provision, or obtaining of a person for labor or services, using force, fraud, or coercion for the purpose of subjection to involuntary servitude, peonage, debt bondage, or slavery

Important Note: In Florida Law, “Coercion” has been removed from the definition for minor labor trafficking; however, the Federal law definition still includes “coercion.”



FORMS OF SEX TRAFFICKING

Federal law provided the following definitions:

Trafficker/Pimp Trafficking

There is a third party who is “brokering” the exchanges of the sexual act for a tangible item, typically money. Pimps can be of any age, any gender, and any background.

Gang Trafficking

The trafficking is a source of generating money for the gang, and the gang member is involved in the trafficking of the victim.

Familial or Family Controlled Trafficking

This type of sex trafficking occurs when a family member or guardian sells the minor for a sex act.

Survival Sex Trafficking

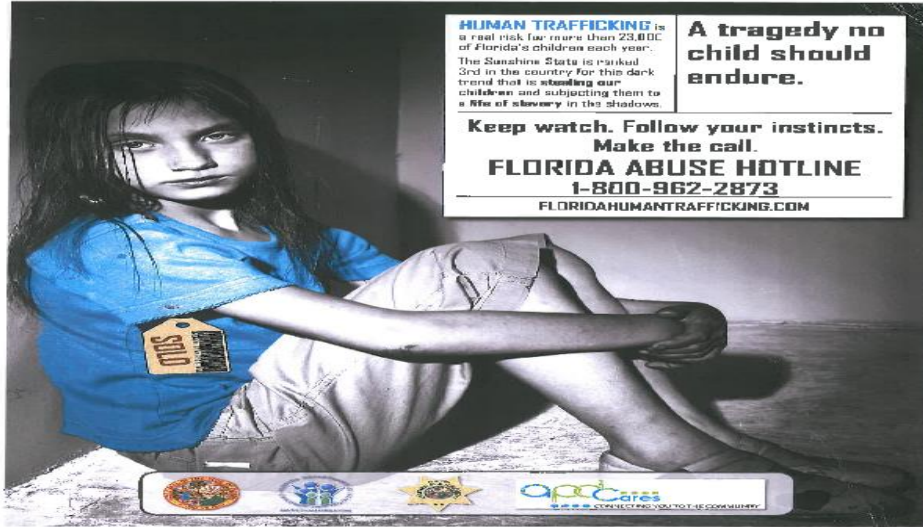
A type of sex trafficking that does not involve a third party where commercial sex acts are exchanged for basic needs including food, shelter, safety, or to support drug addiction.



UNDERSTANDING THE MEANING OF CSEC

- Commercial Sexual Exploitation of a Child (CSEC) is the use of any person under the age of 18 for sexual purposes in exchange for money, goods or services or the promise of money, goods or services.
- “Commercial Sex Act” means any sex act on account of which anything of value is given to or received by any person. This includes:
 1. Prostitution (Child Prostitution is illegal and if a child is involved in prostitution even if there is no 3rd party the child is a sex trafficking victim)
 2. Exotic dancing/stripping
 3. Pornography (including if the youth is selling their own sexual content)





May 2009, DCF added Human Trafficking to there Maltreatment

Total Reports Received by the Hotline

2009 = 43 reports
2010 = 202 reports
2011 = 427 reports
2012 = 657 reports
2013 = 806 reports
2014 = 868 reports
2015 = 1,225 reports
2016 = 1,890 reports
2017 = 2,247 reports
2018 = 2,133 report
2019 = 2,198 reports
2020 = 1,901 reports
2021 = 2,289 reports
2022 = 1,876 reports



Risk Factors For Children At Risk Of Recruitment



Are under 18 years old



Feel misunderstood



Substance use



Fight with their parents



Sometimes feel insecure



Sometimes feel their parents don't care



Own or have access to a social media/game systems



Want more independence



Desire to develop romantic relationships



Test boundaries and take risks



Are attracted to consumer goods



What does Human Trafficking Look Like?



Substance Abuse Vulnerability

Recruitment Through Substance Use: Traffickers may target individuals with existing substance abuse issues to recruit into a trafficking situation.

Control Through Substance Addiction: Traffickers may also use substance addiction to keep victims in a trafficking situation. It can be framed as a reward or punishment, or to decrease the victim's ability to resist trafficking and abuse.

Substance Abuse As A Coping Mechanism: Some victims of human trafficking may abuse substances as a response to the trauma of their trafficking victimization.



Forced Criminality

Although there is no universal definition for forced criminality, Anti-Slavery International describes it as a situation where ...

“A trafficked person is forced to undertake a range of criminal activities by the person or persons exploiting them”
(Anti-Slavery International, 2014)

<https://www.antislavery.org/>



Coerced Illegal Activities

“One distinct, yet often under-identified, characteristic of human trafficking is forced criminality. Traffickers may force adults and children to commit crimes in the course of their victimization such as theft, illicit drug production and transport, prostitution, terrorism and murder.”

- Youth may be coerced into
 - Drug sales or theft
 - Recruiting for their own trafficker
- Coercion includes:
 - Power and control by trafficker
 - Avoiding risks of commercial sex
 - Threats and violence, including gang control

“In situations of captivity, the perpetrator becomes the most powerful person in the life of the victim, and the psychology of the victim is shaped by the actions and beliefs of the perpetrator.”

Judith Lewis Herman (1997)

Trauma and Recovery

<https://www.antislavery.org/>



Global Vulnerabilities: Human Traffickers Often Target



Addictions

Traffickers use substance dependency and addiction to keep control of the trafficked person.

Disabilities and Mental Health

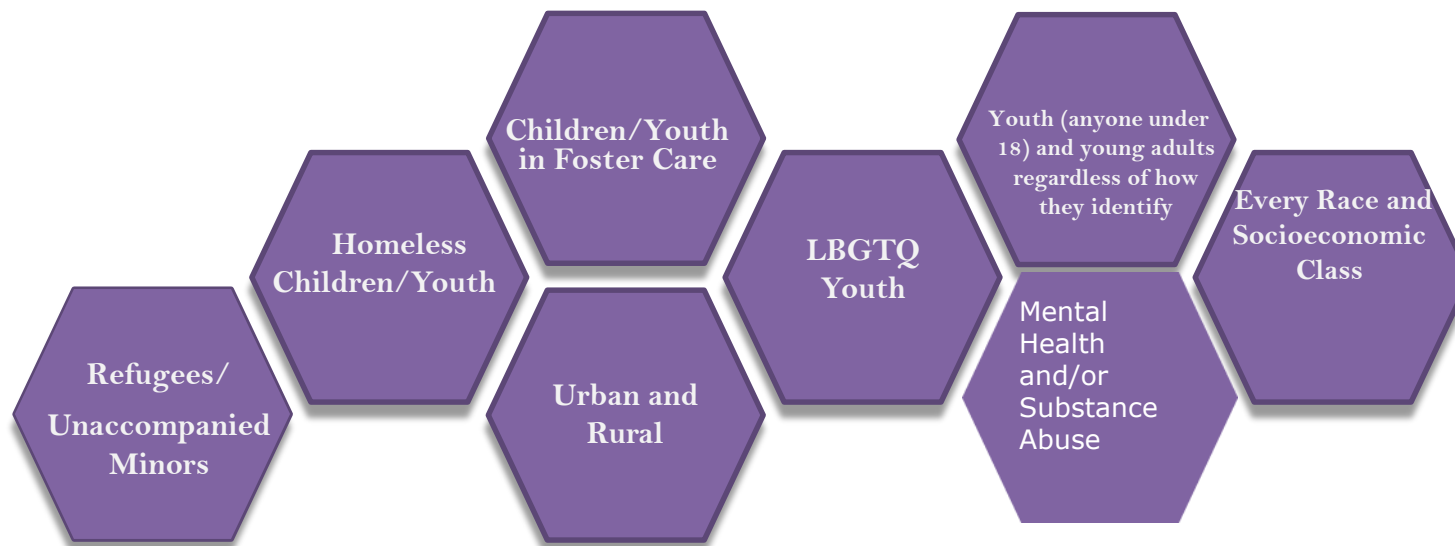
People with mental health issues face a variety of challenges including isolation, diminished capacity to consent or offer informed consent, and limited ability to assess risk and detect ill-intentions.

Gangs

For gangs, the exploitation of men, women, and children is lucrative and less risky than other trades such as weapons or drugs.

Vulnerable Populations to Sex Trafficking

Range of possibilities:



While any child is at risk, CST disproportionately impacts children with a history of neglect and greater social, economic, and environmental vulnerabilities.



Who Do Traffickers Target?

Vulnerable youth that are:

- Emotionally (scared, lonely, desperate to belong, and need love)
- Physically or cognitively (disabilities)
- Limited supports, are “on the run” or “disconnected youth”
- Mental health diagnoses
- **Substance use**



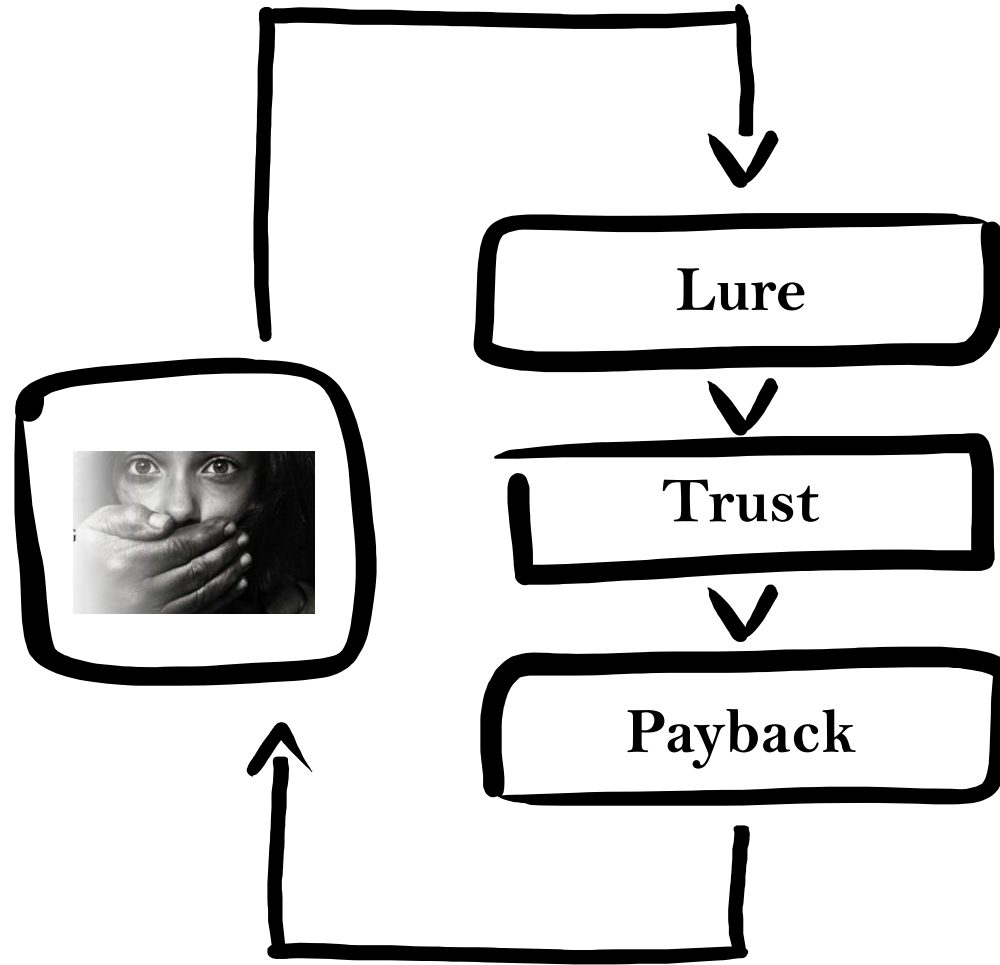
Common Vulnerabilities

- Low self esteem
- Looking for a sense of belonging
- History of physical abuse
- History of sexual abuse
- Mental health history
- Runaway episodes
- Troubled/dysfunctional families
- Attention seeking behaviors
- Drug abuse
- Seeking a romantic relationship/friendship/connection

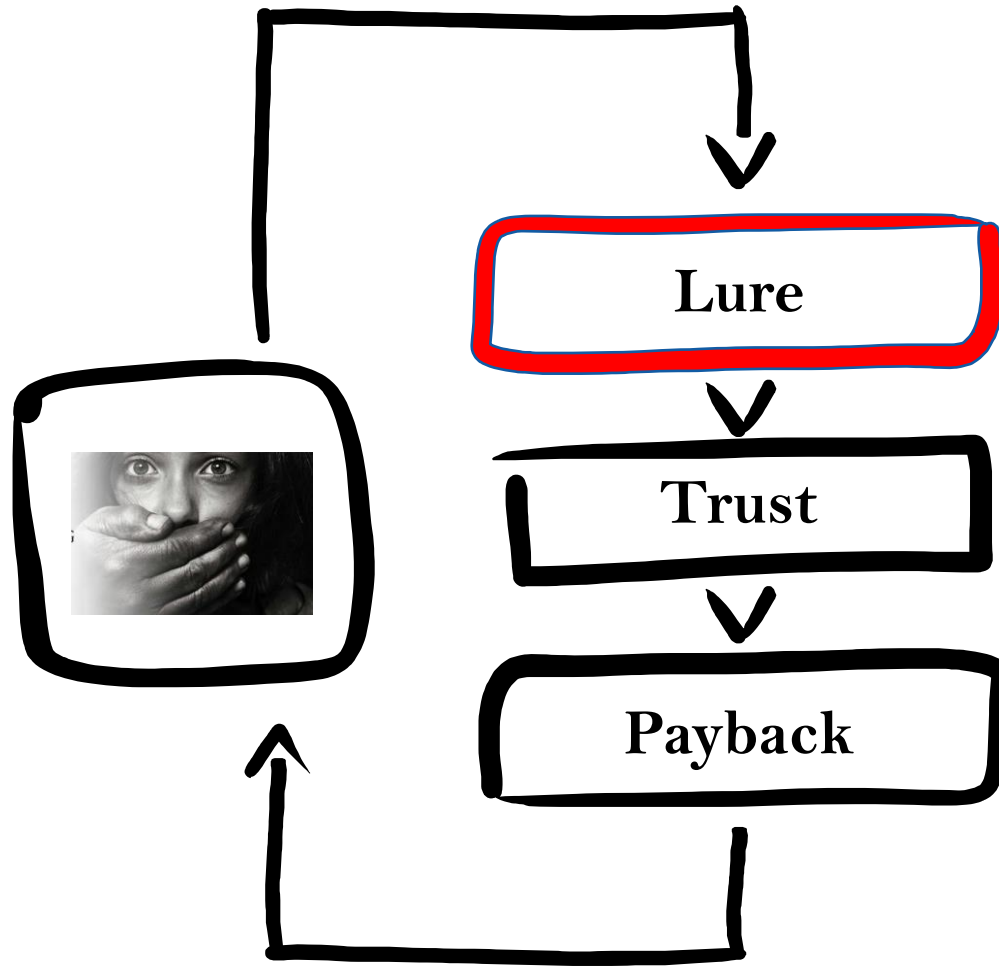


Three Common Stages of HT Recruitment

Traffickers are known to engage in constant recruitment to attempt to entice children into their web of control.

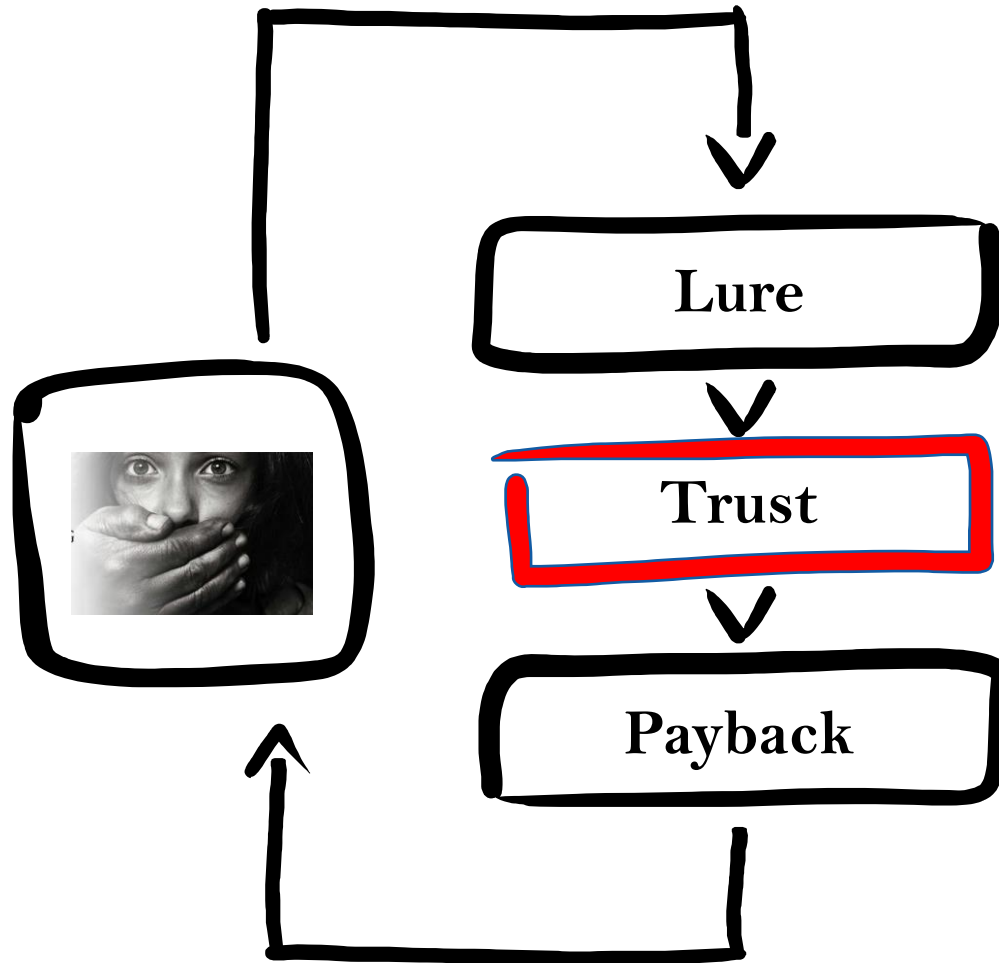


Lure Stage



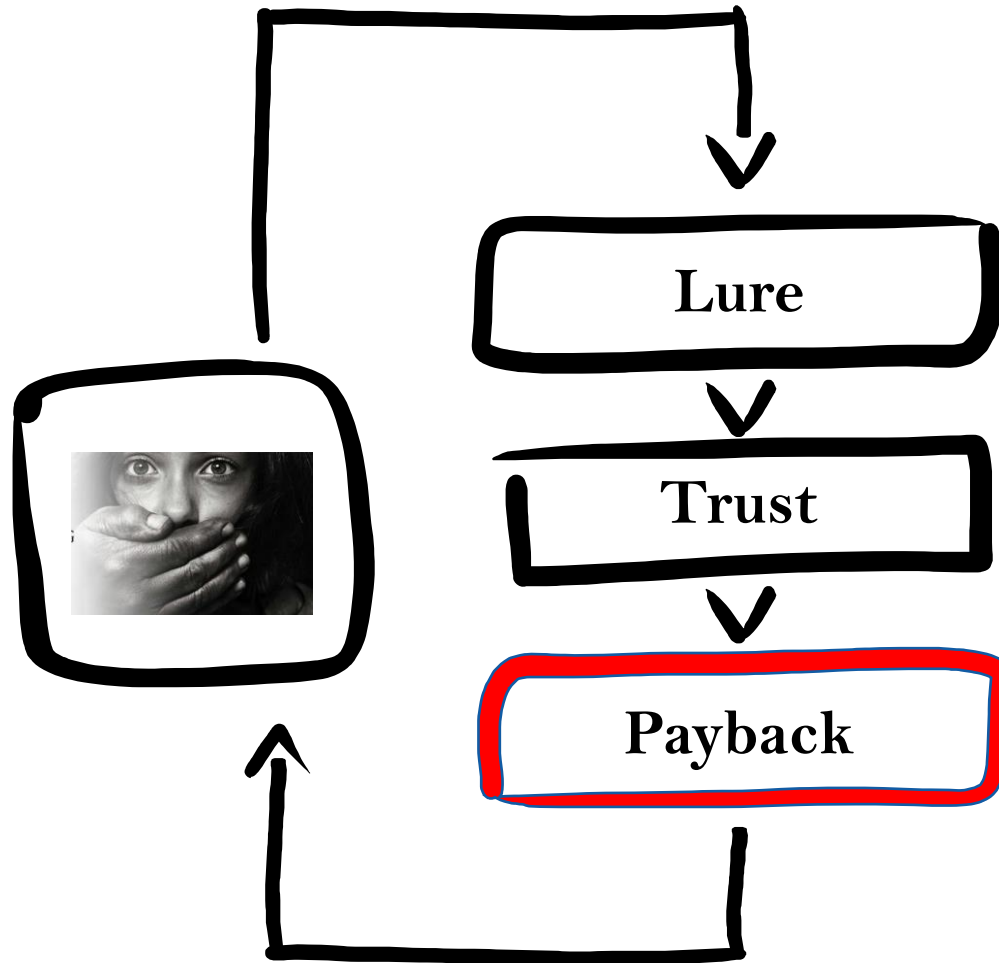
- Pays special attention to child, gives compliments, affection
- Offers romance, support, parties, drugs, “glamour” (hair, nails, party drugs etc.)
- Promises increased popularity in new peer group

Trust Stage



- Sell youth on the glamour of street life
- Introduces or provides alcohol and drugs
- Say “I love you” and have sex with the child
- Challenge boundaries set by parents or caregivers to further separate the child from his or her family

Payback/Exploitation Stage



- Forces child to payback by working in dance clubs, providing sexual services and/or through production of child pornography
- Sexual exploitation is the abuse of a position of vulnerability, differential power, or trust to profit monetarily or socially from the labor or commercial sex work of another person



Former Trafficking Victim Describes Her Ordeal and Rescue

FBI – FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION



Impact Of Human Trafficking On Victims

Psychological Impact

- Disruption of healthy psychological development
- Self-concept, intimacy, beliefs and goals
- Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD)
- Self-injurious and suicidal behavior
- Dissociative disorders
- Anxiety
- Paranoia
- Clinical depression
- Explosive outbursts
- Sleep disturbance
- Hyper-sexualization

Social Impact

- Isolation from peer group
- Disconnection from community
- Isolation from mainstream society
- Homelessness
- Incarceration/Criminal record as obstacle
- Disempowerment
- Lack of life skills
- Trust issues/Difficulty maintaining relationships
- Obstacles to vocation
- Educational deprivation
- Missed school, disconnection with school system

Physical Impact

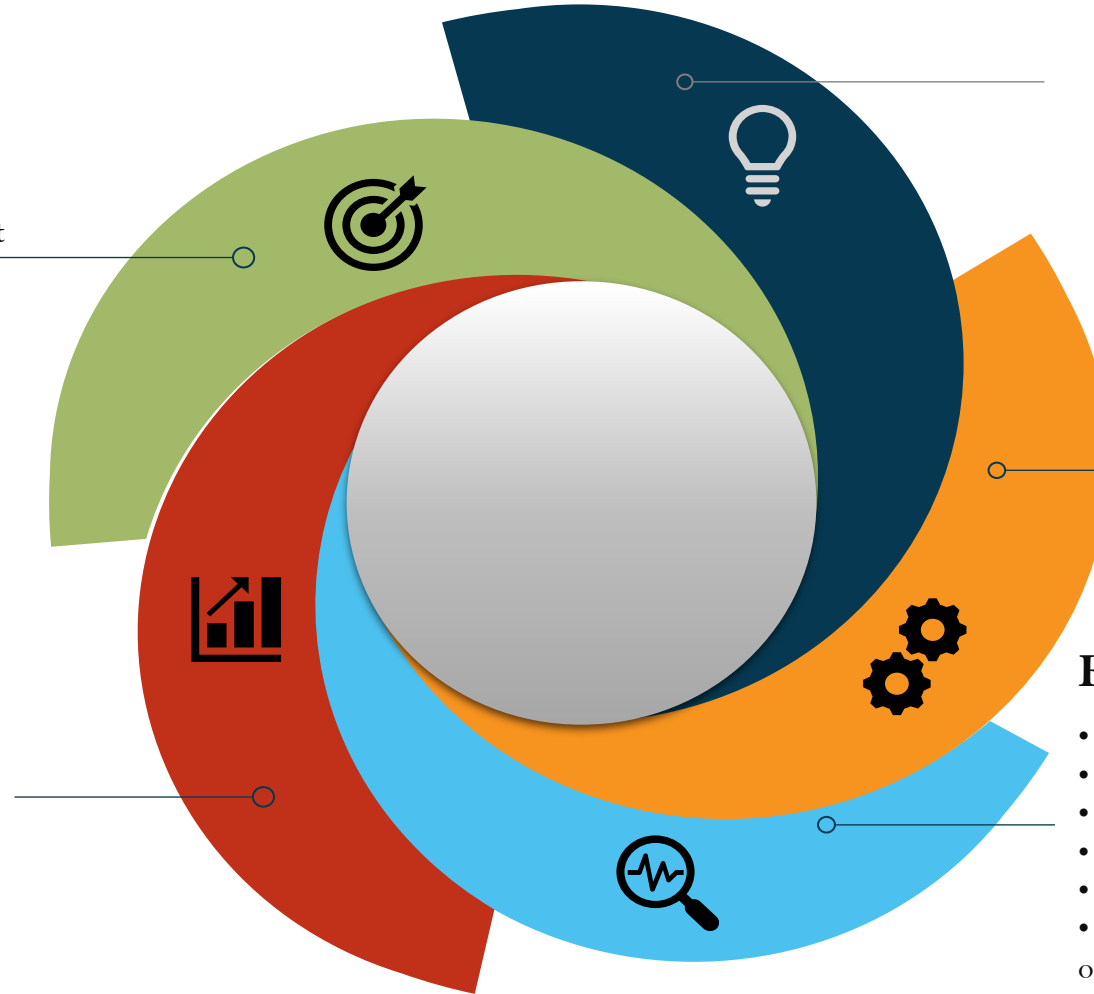
- Continuous physical abuse
- Rape & gang rape
- STDs & STIs & HIV & AIDS
- Loss of bowel control
- Pregnancy (wanted and unwanted)
- Facial/dental reconstruction
- Tattoos & branding
- Brain damage
- Substance abuse/addiction
- Self-cutting
- Suicide/Death

Spiritual Impact

- Despair
- Hopelessness
- Lack of belief in humanity
- Lack of faith in spiritual power

Emotional Impact

- 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



Possible Signs CSEC Victims Show

Abuse Signs

Physical and sexual violence are the everyday reality of many sexually exploited children and may leave visible signs of abuse, such as: unexplained bruises, blackeyes, cuts, or marks.

Behavioral Signs

Sexually exploited children and youth often express interest in, or are in relationships with adults.



Emotional Signs

Exhibit behaviors including fear, anxiety, depression, submission, tension, and/or nervousness, hyper-vigilance or paranoid behavior.

Addiction

Use of substances and signs of addiction with no means to support their drug addiction.

SIGNS OF DRUG USE AND ALCOHOL ADDICTION IN YOUNG PEOPLE

- Receiving lower grades in school
- Missing school or skipping classes
- No longer participating in sports or extracurricular activities
- No longer engaging in activities and hobbies they used to enjoy
- Getting into trouble at school (and/or at work)
- Getting into trouble with authorities or the law
- Spending time with a different friend group
- Spending more time alone
- Spending more time out and away from their home
- Having different eating habits
- Having different sleeping habits
- Weight loss
- Loss of interest in things they once loved
- Bloodshot eyes
- Uncontrollable movement/fidget/tremors
- Skin picking
- Missing curfew
- Mood swings
- Loss of impulse control
- Nosebleeds
- Poor hygiene
- Prescription drugs or alcohol go missing
- Experiencing problems with family members or other loved ones
- Experiencing problems with friends
- Taking less time with their appearance



COMMON SUBSTANCES USED BY TEENS

- Marijuana
- Stimulants (Adderall)
- MDMA (known as Ecstasy or Molly)
- Painkillers and Prescription Drugs
- Spice/K2 (Synthetic Marijuana)
- Heroin
- Cocaine
- Crystal Meth
- Hallucinogens (LSD/Acid, mushrooms)
- DXM (cough syrup)
- Inhalants (Glue, nail polish, gas...)
- Nicotine Vaping
- Alcohol
- Ketamine



POPULAR PARTY DRUGS OFTEN KNOWN AS:

Adderall- often used as a stimulant party drug to stay awake longer.

Street names: Benines, Black Beauties, Crank, Ice, Speed, and Uppers

Cocaine- is often used as a party drug among teens. Cocaine can cause: increased blood pressure and heart rate, dilated pupils, insomnia, and loss of appetite, elevated heart rate, rise in body temperature, nausea and vomiting, pain in the chest, tremors, panic, anxiety, delirium, and paranoia.

Street name: Coca, Coke, Crack, Crank, Flake, Rock, Snow

MMDA- is a popular party drug, particularly among young adults. Usually known as “Molly” or “Ecstasy,” it can lead to a variety of effects such as: Significantly increased emotional feelings, such as empathy, Markedly increased sensitivity to touch, significant feelings of closeness with other people in the room, Major changes in the perception of time and space, Increased sexual feelings and desires, leading to it being called the “love drug”.

Street names: Adam, Beans, Clarity, Disco Biscuit, E, Ecstasy, Eve, Go, Hug Drug, Lover’s Speed, MDMA, Peace, STP, X, and XTC

Ketamine- is abused illegally due to its dissociative properties. Dissociative drugs can lead to distortion of sights, colors, sounds, self, and one's environment. It is often "snorted" up the nose, injected, mixed into drinks, or smoked with marijuana or tobacco.

Street names: special K, Cat Valium, Kit Kat, K, Super Acid, Super K, Purple, Special La Coke, Jet, Vitamin K

Mushrooms- Unlike stimulants, psychoactive drugs don't often come in pill form. Natural psychoactive drugs are usually smoked, made into a tea, or extracted oils for vaping.

Street names: Magic Mushrooms, Shrooms, Mushrooms, Magic Mushrooms, Boomers, Zoomers, Mushies, Simple Simon, Little Smoke, Sacred Mushrooms, Purple Passion, Mushroom Soup, Cubes

UNDERSTANDING THE DANGERS OF FENTANYL

- Pharmaceutical fentanyl is a synthetic opioid, that is 50 to 100 times more potent than morphine.
- Fentanyl is tasteless, odorless, and too small to see.
- As little as two grains of salt size of fentanyl can cause an overdose.
- Substances such as marijuana, molly, opioids, heroin, methamphetamines are often laced with fentanyl.
- Often times, the drug dealers do not know the substances they are selling contains fentanyl.
- Other times, dealers purposely cut other substances with fentanyl to increase the users addiction.
- Fentanyl can be anywhere, as distribution in pills and powders is totally random. For example, one pill or substance may not be fatal but another pill from the same batch could be.



Case review on Sex Trafficking minor victim MK:

- MK's drug of choice or the drug she had the easiest access to was Heroin
- MK disclosed she has used other drugs such as Acid, Alcohol, Methamphetamines, Marijuana and Mollies (MDMA/Ecstasy) and Opioids.
- MK was placed at a residential substance abuse treatment. program.
- MK was in the program for 6 months and successfully complete the program.
- While at the program MK did show progress which allowed her to step down from the residential program to the intensive outpatient level of care.
- MK returned home and immediately began abusing marijuana. She then returned using harder drugs within the same month of returning home.
- To our knowledge MK has overdosed at least three separate times which required administration of Narcan and emergency life saving measures.
- During trafficking episodes, MK traded sexual acts to obtain payment for drugs or exchanged sexual acts for substances.
- MK disclosed that she was lured into trafficking to sustain her drug addiction.
- MK stated that she used substances to self medicate to deal with her past trauma.
- MK admitted she also used substance to escape reality with participating in sexual acts with buyers.



ALL AMERICAN GIRL - HEROIN SUPER BOWL COMMERCIAL



TAKE A PROACTIVE APPROACH



Do not be in denial... you must take action from the first sign of substance use.

When working with a youth and the presence of drug use is suspected you must staff your concerns with your supervisor immediately.

Establish a plan of action and clearly document the signs and your concerns.

Complete needed substance evaluations referrals. If the youth is involved with DJJ then notify their JPO of your concerns.

If you wait, then it may be too late so do not be afraid to take action...



**WHO TO CALL
IF YOU
SUSPECT AN
ADULT IS
BEING
EXPLOITED OR
TRAFFICKED**

- Florida Department of Children and Families 1-800-96-ABUSE for minors
- National Human Trafficking Tip Line: 1-888-373-7888
- Local Law Enforcement 911 if immediate danger or non-emergency number
- Twenty-four-Seven QR code:





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