



HO'OLA NĀ PUA

Understanding CSEC and Responding

Jessica Munoz
President | Founder
MSN, APRN-RX, FNP-BC
Jessica.munoz@hoolanapua.org

Learning Objectives

- Define what the commercial sexual exploitation of children is
- Name four risk factors associated with child sex trafficking
- Describe how children are recruited
- Describe what a comprehensive response looks like
- Name two possible screening questions

Disclosures

- I have no relevant financial relationships with the manufacturer(s) of any commercial product(s) and/or provider of commercial services discussed in this CME activity
- I do not intend to discuss an unapproved/investigative use of a commercial product/device in my presentation.

Characteristics

Trauma

CSEC

Strategies

Challenges

What is CSEC?

The Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children

- Sexual activity involving a child in exchange for something of value, or promise thereof, to the child or another person or persons.
- The child is treated as a commercial and sexual object.
- CSEC is a form of violence against children. It is **child abuse!**

Why does this definition matter?

As a nation, comprised of both federal and autonomously-acting state law, we have collectively acknowledged through legislation that domestic minor sex trafficking (DMST) is a horrendous sexual crime in and of itself. Yet, at the heart of child sex trafficking is the recurrent rape and molestation of a child.

Subtracting the monetary exchange, we would label the crime as child sexual abuse, sexual assault, and rape. Yet, only *23 states define child sex trafficking, in all its forms, as child abuse. This fails to fully identify the dynamics of the crime. Most importantly, however, failing to identify DMST as a form of child abuse interferes with a systematic and consistent child protective response.

Shared Hope International
*current # is higher

CSEC refers to a range of crimes of a sexual nature committed against children and adolescents, including:

- Exploiting a minor through prostitution / escort services;
- exploiting a minor through survival sex (exchanging sex/sexual acts for money or something of value [e.g., shelter, food, drugs]);
- using a minor in pornography;
- exploiting a minor through sex tourism, mail order bride trade, and early marriage; and
- exploiting a minor by having her/him perform in sexual venues (e.g. strip clubs).

STOP THIS TRAFFIC

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Qpr0GtTGJLg>



Risk Factors- Victimization

- Runaways- “throwaways”
- History of violence and abuse
 - 28x more likely to enter into prostitution
- Younger girls are more vulnerable (avg. age is 12)
- Involvement in the Juvenile Justice System
- Family breakdown/violence/poverty
- Mental health issues
- Past trauma (unaddressed)
- Substance abuse
- Sexualization of girls and young women
- Access to technology



Vulnerabilities

- Large family
 - Familial dysfunction
 - Early childhood abuse
 - Sexual abuse as a child
 - History of Molestation
 - Having an absent father (physically or emotionally)
 - Deep longing for love & acceptance
 - Family member/friends being involved in the Game
 - Prostitution in the neighborhood
- Poor attachment
 - Low self esteem
 - Lack of a support system
 - Being in love with a pimp

Runaway and Homeless Youth

1 in 3 young people are approached or recruited by a pimp or exploiter within the first **48 hours** of being on the streets. According to one study, **70 percent** of youth on the street eventually become victims of some form of commercial sexual exploitation, and **30 percent** of youth living in shelters also fall victim, some recruited by other residents.

*Bought and Sold - U.S. Dept. of Health and Human Services
http://ncfy.acf.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/bought_and_sold.pdf*

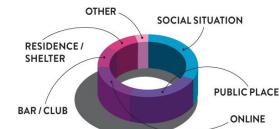
Breaking Down Risk Further:

- Are under 18 years old
- Walk to school or to the store alone
- Own or have access to a computer
- Are attracted to consumer goods
- Desire to develop romantic relationships
- Sometimes feel insecure
- Feel misunderstood
- Fight with their parents
- Sometimes feel their parents don't care
- Want more independence
- Test boundaries and take risks

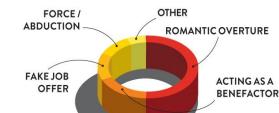
How it Happens

- Kidnapping/Detaining
- Boyfriend pimp/Love Game
- Gangs
- Recruitment from peers
- Extortion/Blackmail
- Internet
- Family Members
- False advertising for modeling, acting, dancing jobs

SEX TRAFFICKING
RECRUITMENT BY LOCATION



RECRUITMENT BY METHOD



Why is Technology the Growing Threat?

- Technology addiction
- Access is used to groom and recruit young people
- Access = Vulnerability
- 2011 FBI estimated over **750,000** child predators are online at any given time
- Favorite apps and websites: one app, one encounter = life altering
- Kik, Omegle, ooVoo, Snapchat, poof, Yik Yak, Tumblr

Identification Strategies



Red Flags

- Older boyfriends/female friends
- Suspicious employment
- No identification
- Drastic change in attire/dress
- Lack of knowledge of whereabouts
- Under 18 in the sex industry
- Inconsistent stories
- Does not make eye contact with males
- Changes in behavior
- Fearful/hypervigilant
- Overly sexualized activity/hypersexuality
- Exaggerated startle response
- Flat affect
- Abusive relationships
- Chronic Runaway
- School absences/truancy
- Never alone
- Travel with an adult that doesn't seem to be the parent
- Unexplained gifts
- Crowded living space

Physical Indicators

- Signs of Torture: cigarette burns, handcuff/rope burns, patterned bruising/ object shaped marks
- Multiple Abortions
- Physical trauma near genitals
- Untreated injuries/scars
- Drug and Alcohol addiction
- Overdose
- Malnutrition
- STI
- TBI - Traumatic Brain Injury
- Tattoos/Branding

Branding



Human Trafficking Victims Implanted With RFID Chips

Posted on May 22, 2016 by FreelIndeed



Human Trafficking victims implanted with Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) chips are showing up in US emergency rooms. [Marketplace](#) reports that the metallic objects slightly larger than a grain of rice are being embedded in victims' bodies.

Marketplace points out that human trafficking can mean being locked in a room, having an RFID chip injected under your skin, or your employer holding your passport. Trafficking is found in industries like prostitution, manufacturing, and domestic service. Further, according to the Justice Department, "83 percent of confirmed sex trafficking victims are US citizens."

<https://freepressbeacon.com/2016/05/22/human-trafficking-victims-implanted-with-rfid-chips/>

Malnutrition

● Be very mindful if someone is coming to your ER that is malnourished. A survivor recently said that she was admitted to the ER over a dozen times when she was a child for malnutrition and not one time did anyone ask, "why are you starving?" - Natasha Nasciemnto, Founder of Redefining Refuge

● A traffic stop in Fairbanks Alaska led investigators to discovery of a trafficking operation of two underage girls. One of the victims was interviewed and said she was sold to the trafficker for one gram of heroin. She was then placed in a hotel where she was given narcotics, forced to strip and provide sexual services. She was kept high on narcotics and required to earn \$1k a day. The men wouldn't let her leave the hotel and she had to live off of ritz crackers and lemonade (Shared Hope Health Provider Manual)

STI

● I recently took care of a 16 year old girl who was found with her trafficker in a motel room. When I examined her, she was profoundly malnourished, she had a bed bug infection, she had a uti, she had PID. I think the thing that was so sad for me was that she lost her glasses 3 weeks into her time with her trafficker and for the past several months she had not been able to see anything. - Dr Katie Deye, Pediatrician

■ (Shared Hope Health Provider Manual)

Typical Trauma Reactions of CSEC victims

Chemical dependency	Inability to make their own decisions
Self-harming behaviors	Denial of victimization
Suicidal ideation	Resistance to receiving help (distrust)
Difficulty reintegrating into school	Feeling dirty, guilty, shameful
Addictive/Risky behaviors	Going to extremes in appearance: overdone or sloppy to the point of poor hygiene
Nightmares	
Triggers and Flashbacks	

Examples of Screening Questions

Have you ever worked (or done activities) without getting the payment you thought you would get?

Did anyone where you worked tell you to lie about your name, age, or what you did?

Did anyone ever pressure you to touch someone or have any physical (or sexual) contact?

Did anyone ever take a photo of you that you were uncomfortable with?

Did you ever have sex for things of value (for example, housing, food, gifts, or favors)?

VERA Institute of Justice: Screening for Human Trafficking

Additions to Standard Medical History

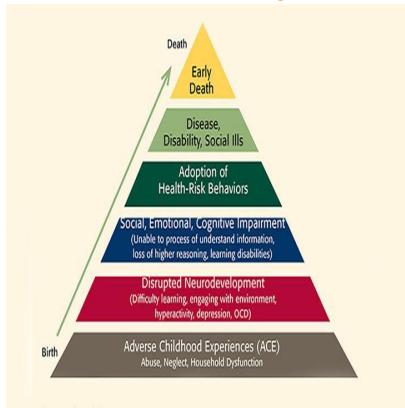
- Access to regular health care
- Immunizations
- Reproductive history: STI, Pregnancy, abortions sexual partners,
- History of injuries such as physical abuse sexual assault
- Substance abuse: type and frequency, method of delivery,
- History of mental health problems, meds or therapy
- Current living situation
- Suicidal ideation or attempts
- Self harm history
- History of panic attacks, nightmares, dissociation, or intrusive thoughts

Screening/Identification Tools

- There has not been an established validated tool for screening, however there are tools that are being used and piloted
- VERA
- Short Screen- Children's Hospital of Atlanta
- Comprehensive Trauma Assessments- Dr Franki-Riddick Gibson
- Conversations with victims
- KNOW THE LANGUAGE

Understanding Traumatized Youth

Kaiser ACE Study-



- Link between child abuse and trauma
- Increased rates of chronic diseases later in life
 - Increased depression
 - Suicide
 - Alcoholism
 - Addiction
 - Heart disease

National Child Traumatic Stress Network - nctsnet.org

“Youth who have experienced chronic trauma do not believe that the adults around them can or will protect them, and sometimes they are right. What is interpreted as delinquent behavior or pointless acting out is often their attempt to assume the burden of taking care of themselves” -NCTSNET.org

Effects of Trauma on Cognition and Mood

- Inability to remember details of the event
- Persistent negative beliefs about self and others
- Blame of self or other for the trauma or its consequences
- Persistent negative emotions such as distrust, horror, terror, guilt, shame, anger
- Inability to experience pleasure or positive emotions
- Relational detachment

Trauma Reactions

- Brainwashed that they will always and only be a ho
- Skilled at using semantics
- Denial of their victim status (due to embarrassment, trauma bonds, etc.)
- Feelings of guilt and shame
- Nightmares
- Flashbacks
- Difficulty concentrating and focusing
- Difficulties in school and/or work

Trauma Reactions

- Cutting
- Suicidal ideation
- Sex addiction
- Addiction to money
- Feeling dirty
- Feeling unattractive if their hair, nails, clothes, etc. aren't perfect
- Inability to budget
- Inability to make their own decisions
- Substance abuse issues



Traffickers use drugs

for TRAPPING,
to create ADDICTION,
and to keep victims NUMB to what they are doing...

Sex Trafficking Trauma vs. Other Forms of Sexual Traumas

- Trauma seen in sex trafficking victims is fundamentally different from what is seen in other sexual traumas due to the chronic nature of their experiences of torture, rape, assault, and forced abortion (Cecchet & Thoburn, 2014).
- There is also research around the concept of “being sold”

Behavior is the language of trauma

The behavioral and emotional adaptations that maltreated children make in order to survive are brilliant, creative solutions, and are personally costly.

Dissociation

- It's technically a defense mechanism—we separate out of our memory things that we don't want to or can't deal with. In trauma (like abuse or rape), that's helpful at the time.
- If dissociation becomes your major defense mechanism, it can become a full blown dissociative disorder which are very intense types of disorders.
- But outside of full blown dissociative disorders, there is still the ability to heavily rely on dissociation even if you don't have the disorder.

<https://www.psychologytoday.com/blog/pathological-relationships/201211/dissociation-isnt-life-skill>

Dissociation

Dissociation can become a primary defense mechanism if you grew up in a dysfunctional, abusive, addictive, or violent home. That's because children can easily get overwhelmed and check out—or dissociate—because they can't handle what's going on.

Dissociation Reinforced

Traffickers give victims:

- | | |
|--------------------------------|----------------|
| ○ New name | ○ New language |
| ○ New clothes | ○ New family |
| ○ New hairstyle/color | ○ New “life” |
| ○ New make-up style (new face) | |

<https://www.psychologytoday.com/blog/pathological-relationships/201211/dissociation-isnt-life-skill>

Trauma Bonds



A pimp uses a **mix of love and affection with anger and violence**, and is quick to fluctuate between the two states. He may tell one of his girls he loves her and in the next minute slap her across the face. This **creates a powerful combination of love and fear** that keeps the victim in a state of hyper-vigilance to the pimp's needs.

Classical Conditioning

In Classical conditioning, learning occurs by temporal association. When two events repeatedly occur close together in time, they become fused in a person's mind, and before long the person responds in the same way to both events. If one event produces a response of joy, the other brings joy as well; if one event brings feelings of relief, so does the other.

Abnormal Psychology (9e), Ronald J. Comer, Worth Publishers 2015

This bond becomes so strong that the girls do not need to be physically chained or held behind a locked door. The **pimp's psychological hold is so intense that he is able to control the victims when they are on the streets, in hotel rooms, truck stops, or houses - even if he is not right next to them**. Psychological control is just as powerful as physical control, but much harder to see.

Why don't they just leave?

- FEAR
- FALSE LOVE
- LIES
- Dependency, Loyalty, "perceived normalcy"
- They do not have anywhere else to go
- Brainwashed that no one wants them
- They will go to jail
- They may hope for the better future that was promised
- The Cage around the Psyche is stronger than the cage around the body

The importance of the patient being alone

- ▶ Some of our children say they wish the medical personnel would have said, "we need you to do something more personal," like a urine analysis or something that requires them actually being isolated and alone. They would have been more likely reach out for help in that situation verses being in the same room as their trafficker- Natasha Nasciemento
- ▶ I've been to the ER 3x, 2x for myself and once for someone else. On all occasion, I was either with someone or with the trafficker. In that moment, your thinking about this guy telling you all the time that he will kill you, and now your this close to death right? Even if the nurses are going to ask the question, or you want to disclose- that person is always in the room. And you cant say, well, I want to talk to you, Can you all step out? "its not going to happen- Shamere Mckenzie, Survivor

Shared Hope Health Provider Manual

The importance of privacy and confidentiality

- ▶ Patient Privacy can literally be a matter of life and death
- ▶ The AAP- Confidential Interview starts at age 12
- ▶ "providing confidential health care services to adolescents is a vital component of ensuring that adolescents receive preventative and the most comprehensive care possible" – AAP, Healthy policy Initiatives

- ▶ A 14 year old remembers being in the Life and frequently winding up in the ER after a particularly bad beating from her exploiter or a buyer she said that while 14, she wound up in the same ER 4x. Each time she was with her exploiter. The triage nurse would ask her what happened she would always say she "got into a fight with some girl". The nurse never asked follow up questions even though it was profoundly unlikely that she would have gotten into a fight at 2am in the morning on a school night. The nurse never serrated her form her exploiter who each time stated he was her father. She remember thinking please get me alone and ask me- I will tell you. But the nurse never got her alone and never asked and she never told. She remember getting expert medical care each time but she did not get out of the life until she was 18 and remember these times as a missed opportunity for someone to have helped her find path to safety.- Lisa Goldblatt Grace, LICSW (Shared Hope Health Provider Manual)

Approach “pearls”

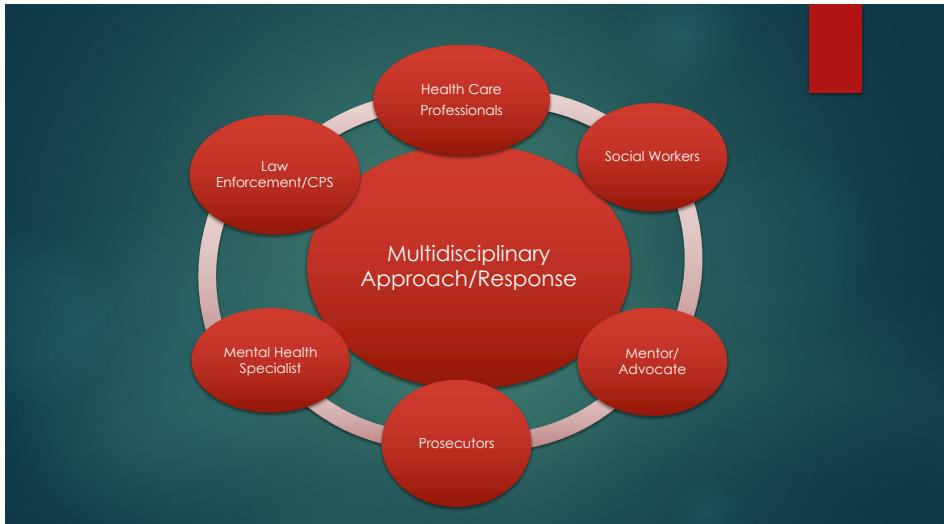
- ▶ SLOW DOWN
- ▶ Watch your body language and facial expression
- ▶ SIT DOWN
- ▶ Avoid Stigmatizing words
- ▶ No judgement
- ▶ Make sure you are genuine
- ▶ Know laws for mandatory reporting
- ▶ Avoid making promises you cannot keep
- ▶ Establish confidentiality
- ▶ Build rapport- open ended questions

In order to be effective, interventions and services must be trauma-informed, victim-centered, strengths-based, and culturally sensitive. Each child's needs will differ depending on a variety of factors, including, but not limited to:

- ▶ Prior abuse and/or neglect
- ▶ Mode of exploitation
- ▶ Stage of exploitation
- ▶ Stage of change (based on the Stages of Change Model)
- ▶ Developmental age
- ▶ Chronological age
- ▶ Learning differences or cognitive abilities
- ▶ Relationship with exploiter(s)
- ▶ Attachments and community support system
- ▶ Familial connections
- ▶ Pregnancy or parenting status
- ▶ Housing status
- ▶ Immigration status
- ▶ Alcohol/drug abuse or other types of addiction
- ▶ Sexual orientation, gender identity, and gender expression (SOGIE)
- ▶ Socioeconomic status

CSEC Needs

- ▶ **Physical Health:** vision, dental, screening for eating disorders, branding removal
- ▶ **Mental Health:** Develop a crisis safety and response plan, mental health assessments, psychotherapy, clinical case management, psycho-education, caregiver support
- ▶ **Sexual/Reproductive Health:** STI screening, HIV testing and treatment, contraception
- ▶ **Substance Abuse:** Screening and appropriate intervention
- ▶ **Education:** special education assessments and advocacy, school attendance, truancy
- ▶ **Support Networks:** mentor- survivor and community based mentors, parent support groups, peer support group



Action Steps

Report

The sexual exploitation of a child or teen by any person must be reported to Child Welfare

► You may also report to Law Enforcement

Treat like all
child abuse –
REPORT

- Know your organization's child abuse reporting protocol and follow it
- If no protocol, advocate to create one

Resources:

Abnormal Psychology (9e), Ronald J. Comer, Worth Publishers 2015

Attorney General's Uniform Crime Report Statistics, 2003 to 2012

Bought and Sold: Helping Young People Escape from Commercial Sexual Exploitation, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, NCFCY

Brown, Brené: Empathy, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1Fvvgu369Jw>

Courtois, Understanding Complex Trauma, Complex Reactions and Treatment Approaches. Christine A. Courtois PhD & Associates, PLC Washington, DC www.drcourtous.com

Dr. Phil Show clip: How A Social Media Post Led A Teen Into Sex Trafficking

http://r.search.yahoo.com/_ylt=A2K1o9imKjVZJGgA9XaXnI0..._ylu=X3oDMTjkOWU3MTk5BHN1YwNjZC1hdHRyBHNsawNzb3VyY2UEdnRpZAMFnVybANodHRwczovL3d3dy55b3V0dWJlLmNvbS93YXRjaD92PXV0WIYyb3BPbk4/RV=2/RE=1496685350/RO=10/RU=https%3a%2f%2fwwww.youtube.com%2fwatch%3fv%3dut/ZV2opOnH8/RK=1/RS=vSetidYzWCCJdhyX B5ChZ0Bbe

<http://endsextrafficking.az.gov/sites/default/files/aw-trust-how-to-talk-to-your-children.pdf>

<http://www.fosteringperspectives.org/fpv18n2/trafficking.htm>

<https://freepressbeacon.com/2016/05/22/human-trafficking-victims-implanted-with-rfid-chips/>

Human Rights Project for Girls, Georgetown Law Center on Poverty and Inequality, Ms. Foundation for Women

Resources Cont.:

IOM (Institute of Medicine) and NRC (National Research Council). 2013. Confronting commercial sexual exploitation and sex trafficking of minors in the United States. Washington, DC: The National Academies Press.

Keisha Head: A Survivor Story, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DKiBf6dgeRI> (Darkness2Light)

http://www.missingkids.org/en_US/documents/CST_1in6_infographic.pdf

National Child Traumatic Stress Network

<https://www.psychologytoday.com/blog/pathological-relationships/201211/dissociation-isnt-life-skill>

quazoo.com

Saving Innocence

Shared Hope International <http://sharedhope.org/>

Shared Hope International (2014). Social service guide to CSEC

Singleton (2015) Seduced: the grooming of America's teenagers. Xulon Elite

<http://stopthistraffic.org/> <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Qpr0GtTGJLg>

www.statista.com

Tricked: Inside the World of Teen Sex Trafficking, Fairfax Network - Fairfax County Public Schools

US Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP), the US Department of Health and Human Resources (HHS), the American Journal of Public Health (AJPH), the Journal of Adolescent Health (JAH)

VERA Institute of Justice: Screening for Human Trafficking

Questions?



 facebook.com/hoolanapua

  [@hoolanapua](https://twitter.com/hoolanapua)

www.hoolanapua.org