
Child Physical and Sexual Abuse
as a Common Factor for
Domestic Minor Sex Trafficking

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- Introduction to DMST
 - Effects of child sexual abuse
 - Effects provide an increased opportunity for victimization
 - Dynamics of DSMT
 - Response techniques
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Definition of Domestic Minor Sex Trafficking (DMST)

- “Recruitment, harboring, transportation, provision, or obtaining of a person for the purpose of a commercial sex act” where the person is a U.S. Citizen or lawful permanent resident under the age of 18 years.

“Commercial sex act” means any sex act on account of which anything of value is given to or received by **any person, including the child.** This includes:

- Prostitution
 - Pornography
 - Sexual entertainment where contact is likely (i.e., lap dancing at strip clubs, illicit massage parlors, etc)
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Myths and Misconceptions

- Movement is required
 - Only females are victims (note language)
 - Only foreigners or immigrants are victims
 - Only rural people are trafficked
 - 3rd party involvement is necessary
 - Relatives cannot be traffickers
 - Victim's love of pimp means that they are choosing prostitution
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DMST Statistics

- At least 100,000 American children are used in prostitution in the United States every year.¹
- The average age of entry into prostitution is 13 years old.²
- DMST victimization occurs at every socioeconomic level, across ethnic and cultural lines, within all religions and at all levels of education.

1. National Center for Missing and Exploited Children

2. Shared Hope International. (2009). *The National Report on Domestic Minor Sex Trafficking: America's Prostituted Children*.

Child Sexual Abuse

- "The employment, use, persuasion, inducement, enticement, or coercion of any child to engage in, or assist any other person to engage in, any sexually explicit conduct or simulation of such conduct for the purpose of producing a visual depiction of such conduct."

DMST vs. Child Sexual Abuse

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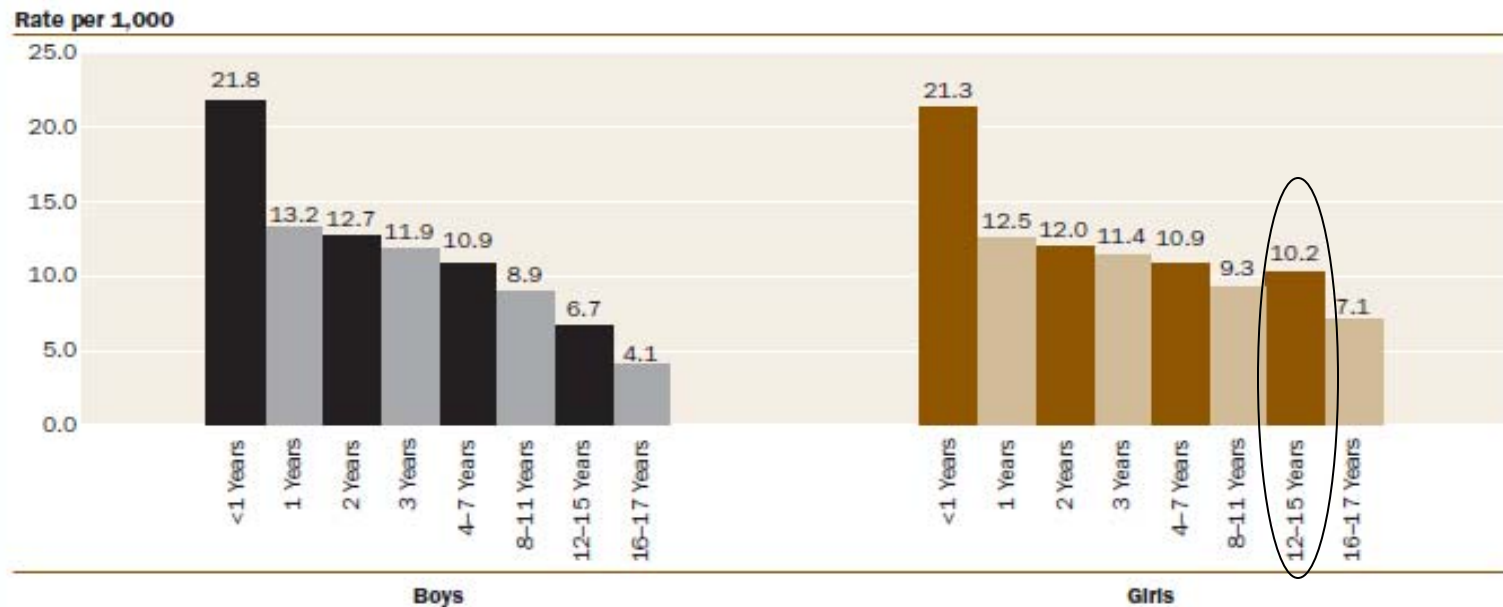
Child Abuse Statistics

- In 2007, 5.8 million children were involved in 3.2 million child abuse reports and allegations. ¹
- 90% of child sexual abuse victims know the perpetrator in some way; 68% are abused by family members. ¹
- 44% of sexual assault and rape victims are under age 18. ²

1. <http://www.childhelp.org/pages/statistics#gen-stats>

2. U.S. Department of Justice. (2004). *2004 National Crime Victimization Survey*.

Figure 3-4 Victimization Rates by Age and Sex, 2008



Based on data from table 3-8.

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families, Administration on Children, Youth and Families, Children's Bureau. (2010). *Child Maltreatment 2008*. Available from http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/cb/stats_research/index.htm#can.

Effects of Child Sexual Abuse

Effects of Child Sexual Abuse

Four Core Injuries:

- Traumatic Sexualization
- Betrayal
- Powerlessness
- Stigmatization

Finkelhor, D., & Browne, A. The Traumatic Impact of Child Sexual Abuse: A Conceptualization. (1985). Family Violence Research Program, University of New Hampshire, Durham.

Traumatic Sexualization

- A process in which a child's sexuality is shaped in a developmentally inappropriate and interpersonally dysfunctional fashion as a result of sexual abuse.
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Traumatic Sexualization

Can occur when:

- Child is repeatedly regarded by an offender for sexual behavior beyond level of development
 - Exchange of affection, attention, privileges and gifts for sexual behavior
 - Certain parts of anatomy are fetishized
 - Misconceptions and confusions about sexual behavior and morality are transmitted from offender to child.
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Betrayal

- The dynamic by which children discover that someone on whom they were virtually dependent has caused them harm.
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“It’s not because he’s my stepfather. It’s because when I was younger he tried to have sex with me...my mother – she knew that...she knew that he was trying to have sex with me and she didn’t do anything about it...So if I can’t trust you and I can’t trust my mother then what am I doin’ here? I left...I was sleepin’ outside...train stations, shelters...everywhere; like...anywhere but there.”

-Sabrina, 17

Williams, L.M. & Frederick, M.E. (2009). *Pathways into and out of commercial sexual victimization of children: Understanding and responding to sexually exploited teens.*

Powerlessness

- The dynamic of rendering the victim powerless – refers to the process in which the child's will, desires, and sense of worth are continually disregarded.
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Powerlessness

- Child's territory and body space repeatedly invaded against their will
 - Child's attempts to stop abuse are useless
 - Child may feel fear, or be unable to communicate or make adults believe what happened to them.
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Powerlessness

91% of prostituted women who were sexually abused as children told no one.

Silbert, Mimi H. (1984). Treatment of Prostitute Victims of Sexual Assault. *Victims of Sexual Aggression*. Van Nostrand Reinhold.

Stigmatization

- Refers to negative connotations (badness, shame, guilt) that are communicated to the child around the experiences that become incorporated into the child's self-image.
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Stigmatization

Children may:

- Fear the anger, jealousy or shame of family members
 - Be afraid the family will break up if they tell
 - Make statements that their bodies are dirty or damaged
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Dynamics of Domestic Minor Sex Trafficking

*INTERVENE: Identifying and
Responding to America's Prostituted
Youth*

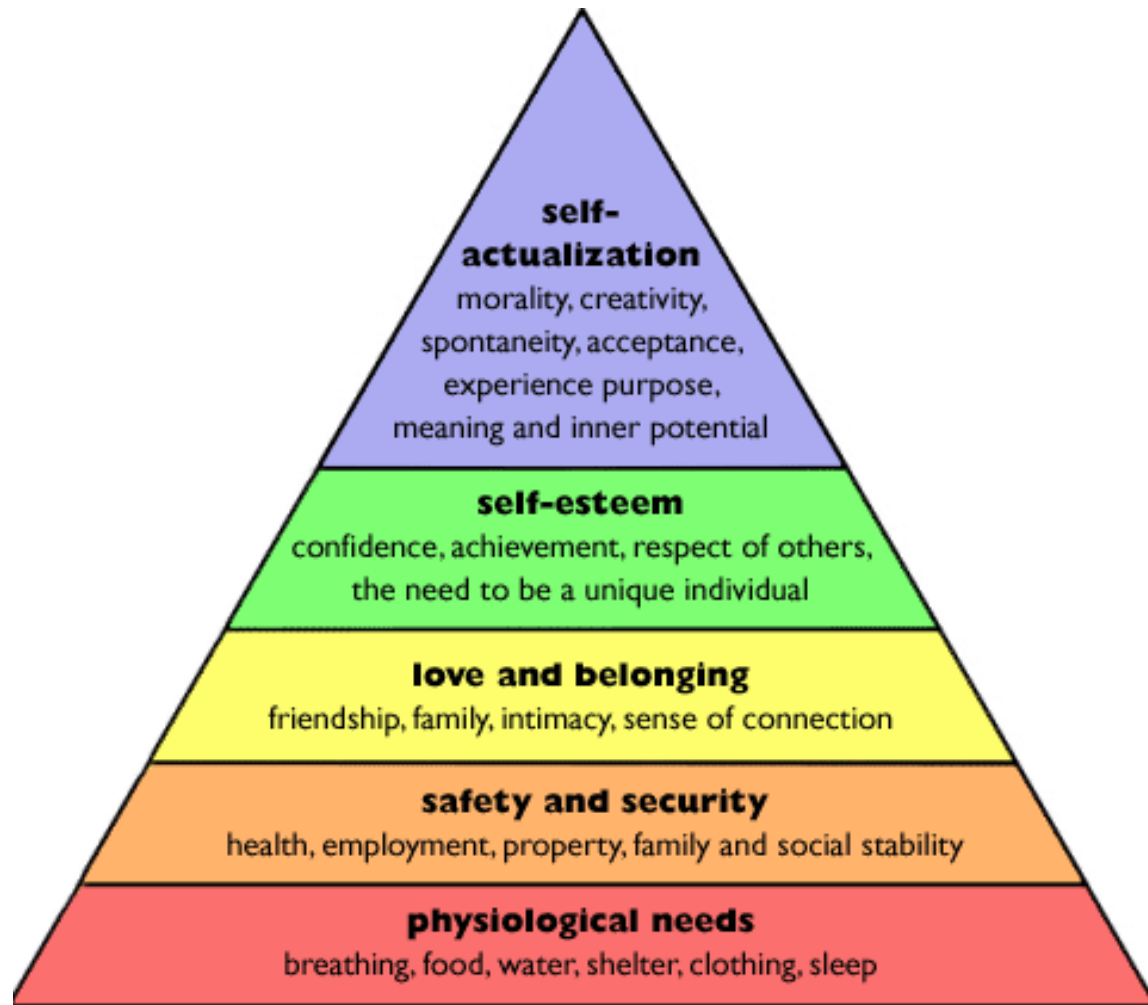
Segment 2

Vulnerability, Recruitment and Pimp Control

Recruitment

“She (the ho) must want something. Be it fame, stardom, love, money, respect, security – in order to be a ho, she must want something. That something is that which she is willing to sacrifice ALL to have. That one thing, that need, is what you must attain before the ho does.”

Maslow's Hierarchy of Needs



“I think he was able to figure out right away what I was looking for, just from talking. I wasn’t looking for a boyfriend, because I knew that ended really poorly. I was looking for acceptance, excitement, a way out of my friends, a way out of my uh, home life, and he recognized that and he said that we would hang out with rich and famous people. I would go to clubs. He would give me a red Corvette, we would drive across the country, didn’t matter that I didn’t have a license.”

-Heather, victim of sex trafficking

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- 96% of prostituted victims who entered prostitution as juveniles were runaways. Most stated they had no other option for making money.
 - 70% of prostituted victims believed that being sexually abused as children influenced their decisions to become prostitutes.

Multiple studies estimate that ...
70-90 percent of sexually
exploited children have a
history of child sexual abuse.

1. Bagley, C. & Young, L. (1987). *Juvenile Prostitution and Child Sexual Abuse: A Controlled Study*. Canadian Journal of Community Mental Health.
 2. *Annual Report*. (1991). Council for Prostitution Alternatives. Portland, Oregon.
 3. Murphy, Patricia. (1993). *Making Connections: Women, Work and Abuse*. Paul M. Deutsch Press, Florida.
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Pimp Control

Core Injury #1: Traumatic Sexualization

Period of Seasoning:

- Gang rape
 - Sexual assault
 - Dehumanization
 - New name and identity
 - Forced to watch porn
 - Learn how to speak and act
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Core Injury #2: Betrayal

- Her boyfriend becomes her boss
 - She meets other women in pimp/trafficker's "stable"
 - The initial loving environment turns violent
 - False promises
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Core Injury #3: Powerlessness

To keep a victim powerless a pimp/trafficker:

- Controls all money
 - Takes victim's ID
 - Threatens her with violence
 - Tells a victim she has no options for help
 - Tells a victim she is not worth helping
 - Removes her identity so she is dependent on him/her
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“Typically ho’s are not supposed to have no money. All the money goes to your daddy. Your daddy’s supposed to take care of you. He’s supposed to take you shopping. He’s supposed to put minutes on your phone. He’s supposed to buy you food, supposed to give your family money if they need money – everything”

- Survivor

Williams, L.M. & Frederick, M.E. (2009). *Pathways into and out of commercial sexual victimization of children: Understanding and responding to sexually exploited teens.*

Core Injury #4: Stigmatization

- Arrested and treated as delinquent
 - Society labels them as “whores, hos, prostitutes, dirty, worthless”
 - Don’t feel they belong outside “the life” anymore
 - Told the family won’t love or accept them anymore
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"Look, men pay for women because he can have whatever and whoever he wants. Lots of men go to prostitutes so they can do things to them that *real* women would not put up with."

-Bob

Melissa, F. Bindel, J. & Golding, J.M. (2009). *Men Who Buy Sex: Who They Buy and What They Know*. Prostitution Research & Education, San Francisco & Eaves, London

Response Solutions

*INTERVENE: Identifying and
Responding to America's Prostituted Youth*

Segment 4

Assessing and Treating Victims of Domestic
Minor Sex Trafficking

Solution #1: Know the Indicators

- Homelessness
 - Chronic Runaway
 - Previous sexual abuse
 - Travel with an older male
 - Presence of an older, dominating boyfriend
 - Multiple sexually transmitted diseases
 - Tattoos and other branding marks
 - Signs of violence: cuts, bruises or burns
 - Numerous violations like curfew, truancy and other status offenses
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Solution #2: Report Indicators

National Human Trafficking Hotline:
1-888-373-7888

The National Center for Missing
and Exploited Children:
1-800-THE-LOST

Solution #3: Revise Intake Questions

1. Have you ever left home w/o a parent or guardian knowing? Why? How long?
 2. How do you take care of yourself when you are away from home?
 3. Do you have a boyfriend? How old is he? What are some things you enjoy doing together?
 4. Ask about their tattoo (if visible). When did you get it? What does it mean? Where did you get it?
 5. How often do you get to see your friends? What do you enjoy doing with them?
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Solution #4: Know Available Services

- Kristi House/ProjectGOLD
- His House
- Florida Coalition Against Human Trafficking
- Florida National Organization for Women

Task Forces

- Miami
 - Clearwater
 - Lee County
 - Broward County
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Solution #5: End the Cycle

- Don't purchase any commercial sex act.
 - Don't witness or support the purchase of a commercial sex act.
 - Understand they are “prostituted children” rather than “child prostitutes”
 - Talk to others about the issue
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