

INTRODUCTION TO CHILD TRAFFICKING IN CONNECTICUT



Overview

- Legislation: TVPA and Connecticut's PA
- What is child trafficking?
- What is Domestic Minor Sex Trafficking?
- Prevalence of Child Trafficking in CT
- Pathways to Victimization
- Warning Signs
- Impact of Child Trafficking
- Who are the Traffickers and Buyers?
- Engagement and Services
- Connecticut Response



NEST Foundation Documentary:
Playground(4:40 Minutes)

Federal Definition of Human Trafficking: Trafficking Victims Protection Act (TVPA)

**The recruitment, harboring, transportation,
provision or obtaining of a person for...**

Sex Trafficking

...a commercial sex act, in which a commercial sex act is induced by force, fraud or coercion, or in which the person induced to perform such an act has not attained 18 years of age.

“Commercial Sex Act” means any sex act on account of which anything of value is given to or received by any person.

Labor Trafficking

...labor or services, through the use of force, fraud or coercion for the purpose of subjection to involuntary servitude, peonage, debt bondage, or slavery.

Rights of Victims Under the TVPA



Victims should not be inappropriately incarcerated.



Not to be detained in facilities not appropriate for a victim.



Receive necessary medical care and other assistance.



To be provided protection if their safety is at risk.



Protection from intimidation and threats of violence.



Personal identifying information should remain confidential.



Labor Trafficking

- The International Labor Organization estimates there are **14.2 million** people trapped in forced labor
- On average undocumented individuals pay between **\$8,000 and \$13,000** to come to the United States illegally
- Vulnerable populations are frequently targeted by traffickers

*Immigration Status • Recruitment Debt • Poverty • Isolation
• Lack of Labor Protection*

Types of Labor Trafficking

Polaris Project, <http://polarisproject.org/typology>

- Massage, Health, & Beauty
- Outdoor Solicitation
- Residential
- Domestic Work
- Bars, Strip Clubs, & Cantinas
- Pornography
- Traveling Sales Crews
- Restaurants
- Food Service
- Peddling & Begging
- Agriculture & Animal Husbandry
- Personal Sexual Servitude
- Construction
- Hotels & Hospitality
- Landscaping
- Illicit Activities
- Arts & Entertainment
- Commercial Cleaning Services
- Factories & Manufacturing
- Remote Interactive Sexual Acts
- Carnivals
- Forestry & Logging
- Health Care
- Recreational Facilities

PBS Frontline
Trafficked in America (5:01 mins)



Indicators of Labor Trafficking

- Unpaid or very little pay
- Employed with no school authorized work permit and not on the “books”
- Falling asleep or increased absence at school
- Working outside permitted work hours
- Large debt and inability to pay it off
- Overly concerned with pleasing employer
- Not in control of their own money
- Living at place of employment
- Not being allowed to quit job
- Excessive work hours with little or no breaks



Domestic Minor Sex Trafficking (DMST) is the exchange of any sex act with a child under the age of 18, who is a US citizen or permanent resident, for anything of value.

Types of Child Sex Trafficking



- **Internet Based**
- **Street/ Public**
(increasingly less common)
- **Stripping or Dancing**
- **Child Sexual Abuse Images (Pornography)**
- **Escort Services**
- **Casinos/Clubs**
- **Private Parties/High School Parties**
- **Interfamilial**
- **Survival Sex**
- **Sex for Drugs**
- **Gang Based**
- **Marriage Trapping**

Forced Marriage

- Multiple Motivations
- Economic Dependency
- Illegal Acts (performed through legal system)
- Servile marriage
- Parental Pressure
- Societal pressure

LACK OF:

Consent

Personal Liability

HARMS OF:

Physical Abuse

Sexual Abuse

Psychological Abuse

RISKS OF:

Exploitation

Exchange of Favors

Risk of Death

Human Trafficking

- Primary Purposes
 1. Economic Dependency
 2. Exploitative
- Illegal Acts
- “Slavery Like”

Sextortion & Online Enticement

A Look at a New Epidemic...

- 10.2 Million Reports, not including Sextortion
- 78% of Victims are Female
- 82% of Offenders are Male
- Average Age of Victim 15 years old
- 98% of Offenders NOT known to the Victim



- TikTok
- Letgo
- OfferUp
- Discord
- PETS
- MegaPersonals
- Plenty of Fish
- Skout
- IMVU
- Humaniplex
- Eros
- Callescort
- Seekingarrangements
- Cityxguide.com
- Sugardaddy.com
- Skipthegames.com
- Eroticmugshots.com
- Friendboy.pro
- Rubmaps.com

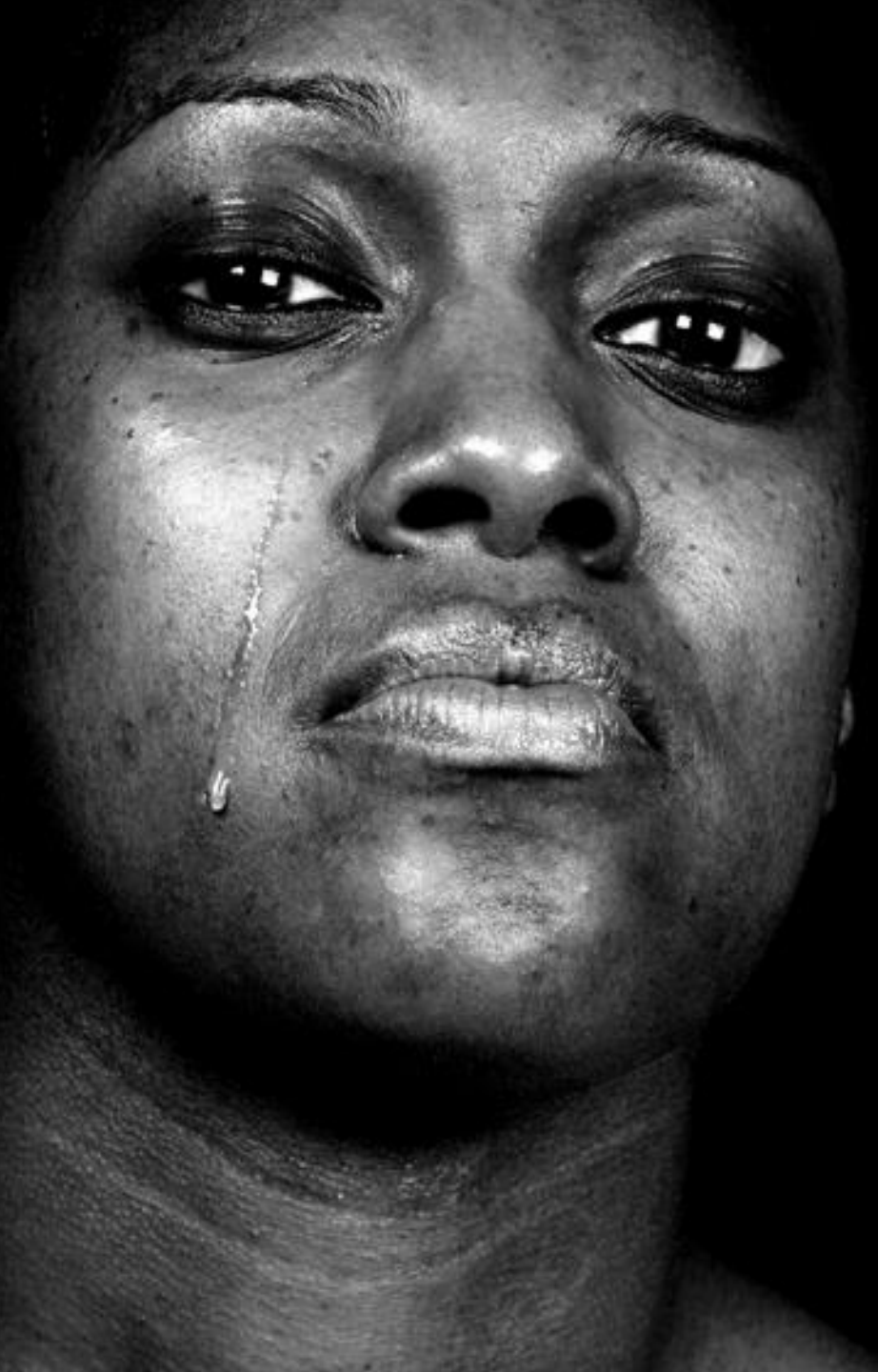
**This is not an all-inclusive list and apps frequently change.*



Child Sex Trafficking Legislation in CT

UNDER 18 years old *CANNOT* be ARRESTED for PROSTITUTION!

- Victims can be classified as “uncared for” to receive services from DCF.
- Suspected cases ***shall be*** reported to the DCF Careline (800-842- 2288).
- Child Sex Trafficking cases are to be reviewed & addressed through Multi-Disciplinary Teams (MDTs).
- Buyers paying to sexually abuse a child can be charged with **Commercial Sexual Abuse of a Minor**.
 - Class B felony when the child being purchased is age 15 to 17.
 - Class A felony when the child is under the age of 15.



Language Used In “The Life”

- Circuit
- Bottom Bitch
- Hustler
- Daddy
- Madam
- Date
- Quota
- Stable
- Trick
- Pimp
- Family/ Folks
- Kiddie Stroll

Language Matters

Pimp

Trafficker or
Exploiter

John

Buyer or Child
Molester

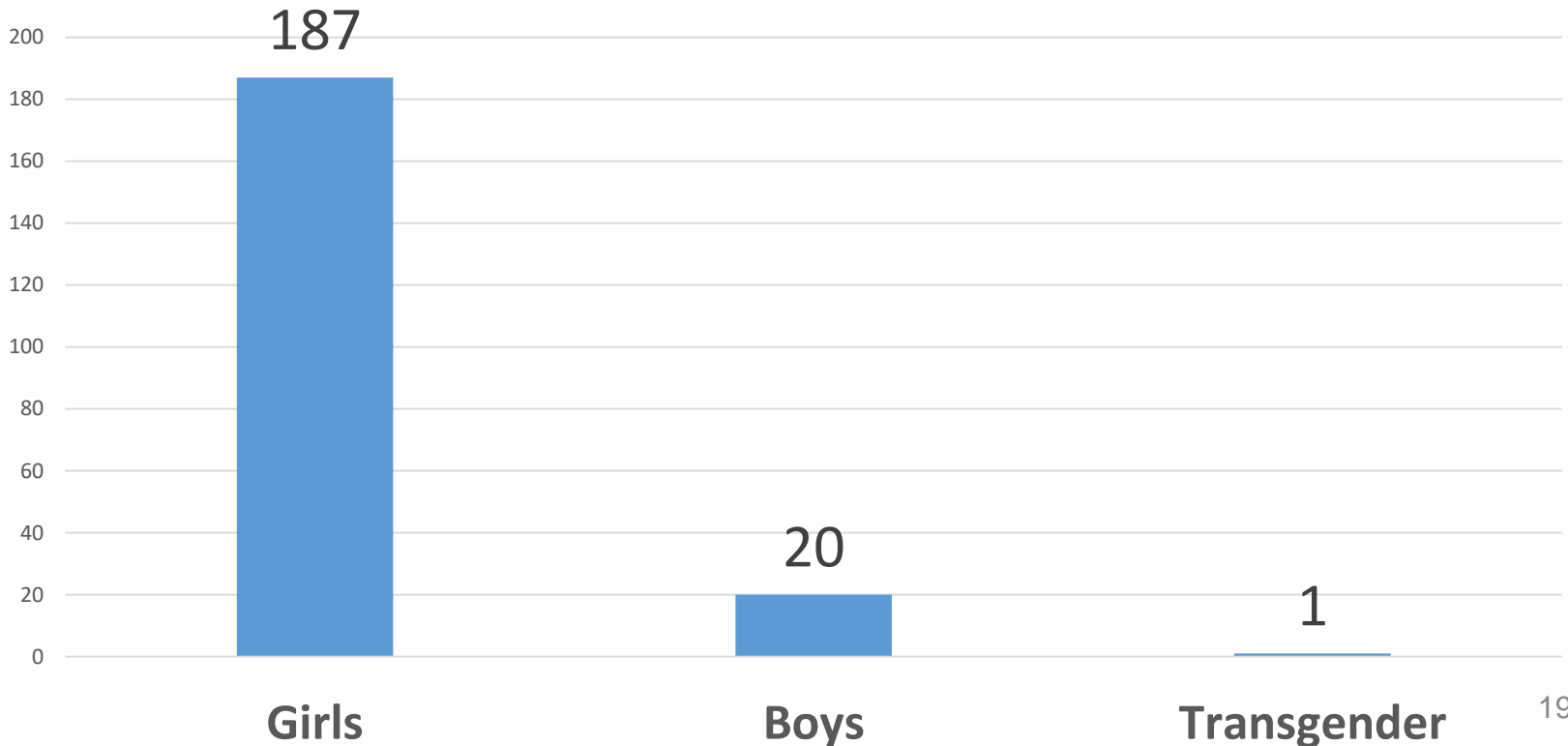
A CHILD is *NEVER* a Prostitute!



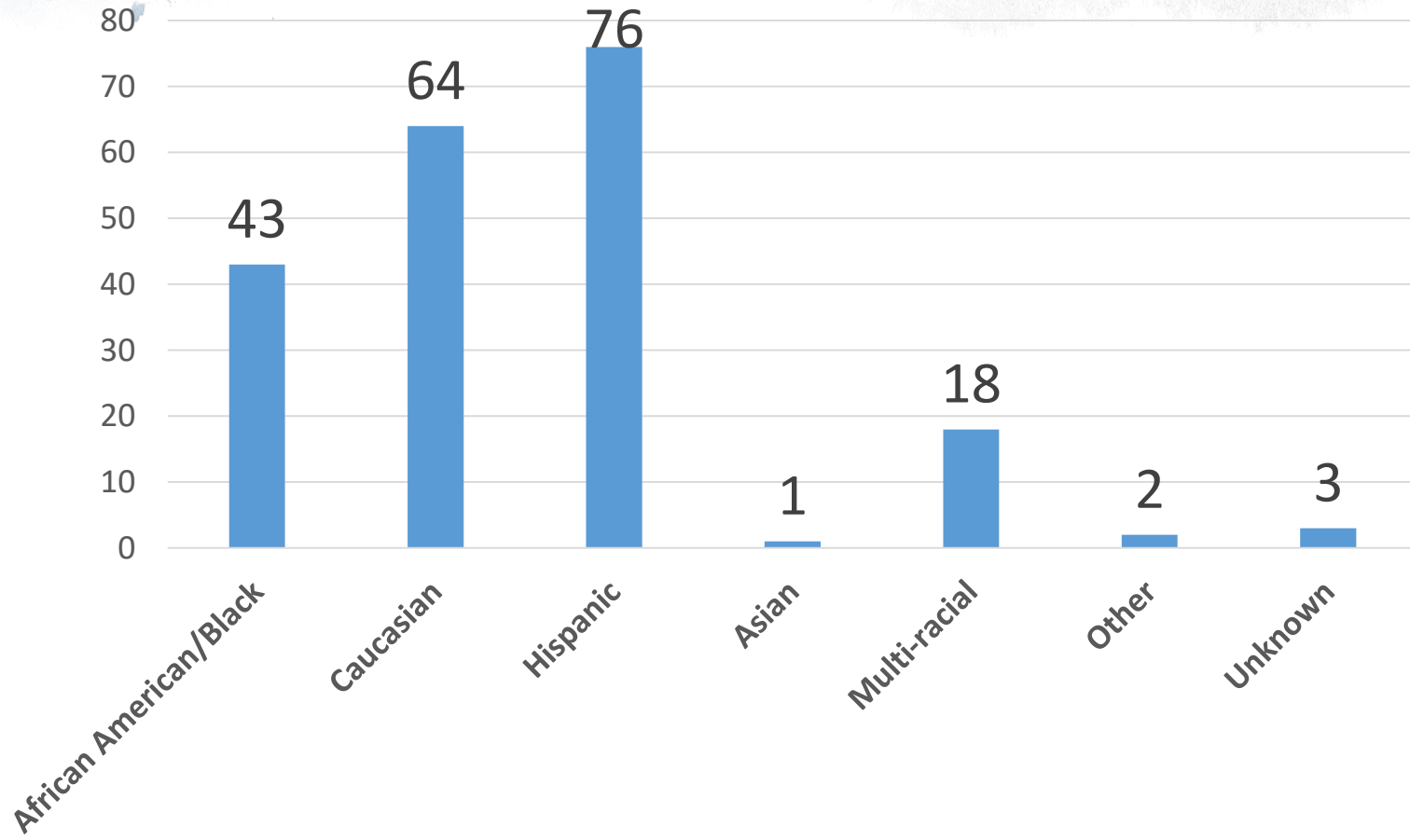
- They are victims.
- They are survivors.
- They have rights under the TVPA!

Multiple cases in every county in Connecticut.
Average Total Referrals Per Year: 208
Age Range: 2-18 years old

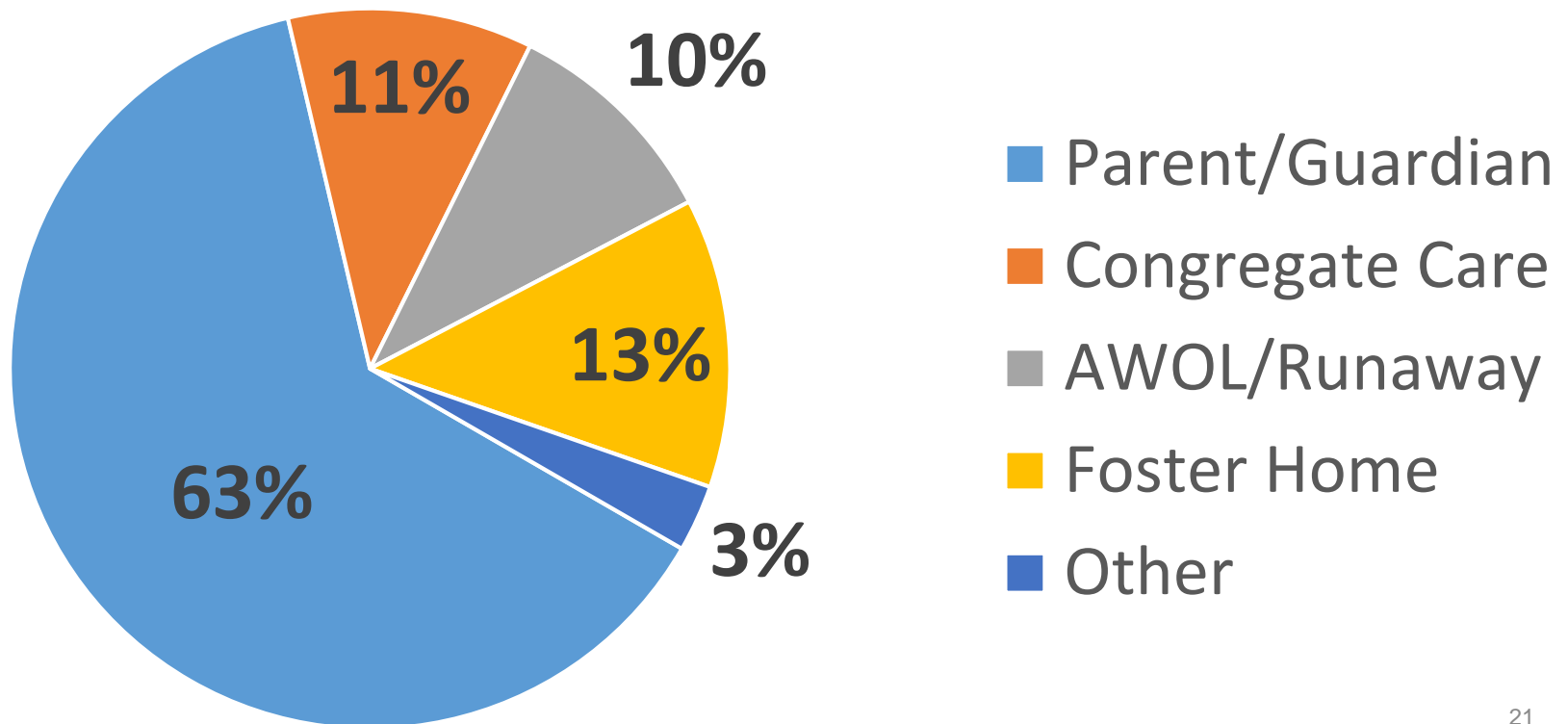
Years '16 thru '18



Race and Ethnicity Averages between 2016 - 2018



Residence at Time of Exploitation Average between 2016 - 2018



Nightline Report:
Hidden America: Chilling New Look at Sex Trafficking in the US (11:45 minutes)

The background of the slide is a stylized American flag with a blue field of white stars on the left and red and white stripes on the right. The flag is waving and has a slight 3D effect.

National Data Indicates...

- Girls
- Children involved with Child Welfare
- Children from low income communities
- LGBTQ/GNCT Children
- Homeless Children
- Children of Color

...are at higher risk for
victimization.

LGBQ/GNCT Victims

Under-Reported Problem

- Approximately 40% of homeless youth are LGBQ/GNCT
- Twice as likely to have run from home than straight youth



1 in 2



Transgender & Bisexual
people experience sexual
assault in their life.

VICTIM PROFILE

Children of any...

- Ethnicity, race, or religion
- Socio-economic class
- Gender or sexual orientation
- Ages, including teenagers

Children with...

- Vulnerabilities
- Histories of abuse

Children who are...

- Homeless or runaways
- In the foster care system
- In the juvenile justice system
- Lacking a safety net



IT CAN BE ANY CHILD!

RISK FACTORS & VULNERABILITIES

From Exposure to Trauma

Children with a history of traumas

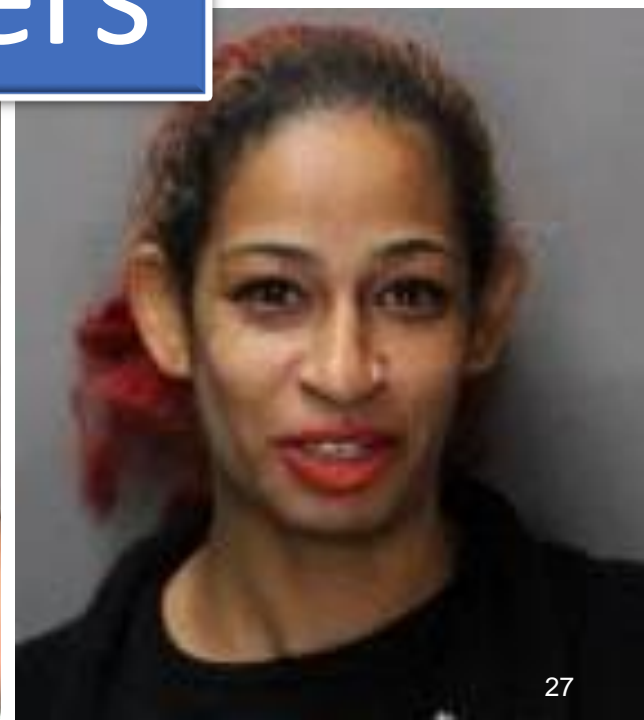
- Physical Abuse/Neglect
- Emotional Abuse/Neglect
- Sexual Abuse
- Deprivation of Necessities
- Separation of Family/Community
- Rejection by Peers and/or Family
- Bullying
- Community Violence
- Involvement in Juvenile Justice

...are at higher risk and more vulnerable to victimization by child trafficking.





The Traffickers



THE TRAFFICKER

Anyone who benefits from the commercial sexual exploitation of a minor or facilitates the commercial sexual exploitation of a minor.

- Boyfriend or Girlfriend
- Father or Mother
- Brother or Sister
- Uncle or Aunt
- Peers or Friends
- It can be anyone that exerts control over a minor such as:
 - Police Officers, Clergy members, a Coach, or Teacher
- Any gender of varying ages
- Any ethnicity or race
- Not always organized crimes



Very Young Girls Documentary
Shaneiqua's Story (8:45 minutes)



FORCE

FRAUD



COERCION

Routes of Human Trafficking in the U.S.

*Crossing state lines is not required.



- Approximately 50 % of Exploiters work locally within the same community.
- Approximately 30 % of Exploiters work statewide.
- Approximately 20 % of Exploiters work across the country.

The Child Molester

The Economics of Human Trafficking



Who Buys Sex?

“High-frequency” Buyers

- Represent 75% of the market transactions
- 1st purchased sex by the time they turned 21 years old
- More likely to make \$100,000 or more annually
- 20.6% of men purchase sex at least once in their lifetime
- Only 6% of men report being arrested for buying sex





Buyers on ONE given night...

of Buyers per night ranges from 3-25

150,000 victims having sex with **10** buyers per night would mean that on any given night there are **1.5 million buyers exploiting children!**

Victims are 7 times more likely to be convicted than their buyers...

Children in “the life” are often brutally raped on a daily basis, think of the impact that one rape has on the life of any person, imagine the impact of a thousand...

A Connecticut Case

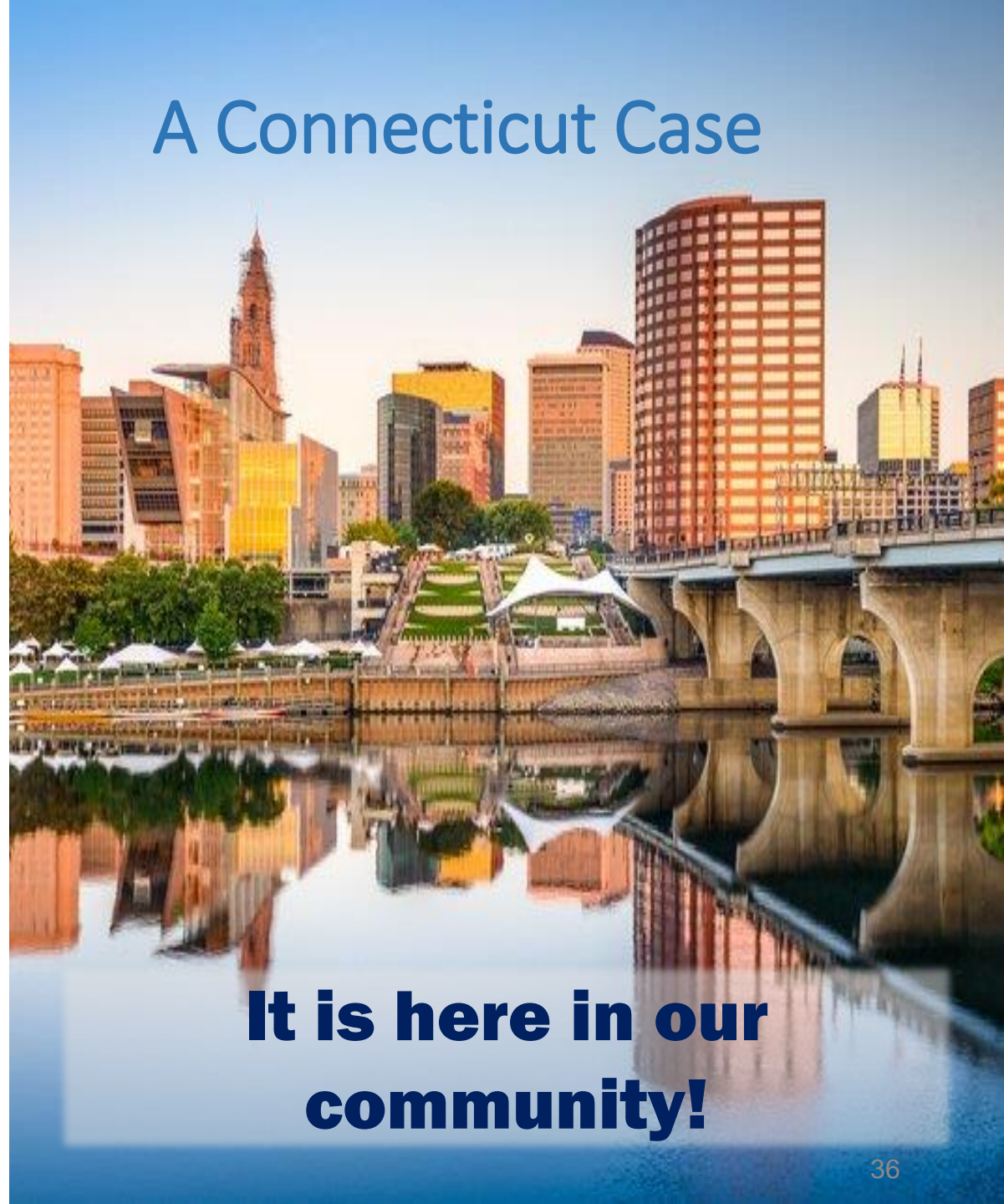
IN LESS THAN A YEARS TIME...

- 315 DAYS PER YEAR
- 20 BUYERS PER NIGHT
- \$1,000 PER NIGHT QUOTA

**6300 BUYERS IN
LESS THAN A YEAR**

EARNING \$315,000 TAX FREE.

SHE KEPT NONE OF IT.



**It is here in our
community!**



**EVERY
30 SECONDS**
ANOTHER PERSON BECOMES A VICTIM OF
HUMAN TRAFFICKING **LEARN MORE**



Victim Identification

Adolescence is a Risk Factor!

Thank You Catherine Tatge, Executive Director

Why Do Victims Stay?

- Fear, distrust of health providers, government, police
- Unaware what is being done to them is a crime
- May develop loyalties, positive feelings toward trafficker as coping mechanism (trauma bonding)
- May not know where they are, because traffickers frequently move them to escape detection
- Fear for safety of family or oneself due to threat of violence
- Past experience of trauma
- Survival/Addiction



“Promise them heaven and they will follow you to hell.”

(Harvey Washington, a pimp, New York Times, 2009)

Cycle of Violence

Honeymoon

Tension

On average our victims go
back to the life **7 times**.

Explosive Episode



Red Flags

- Frequent runaways, missing from care
- Hotel business cards, escort service business cards, hotel key cards
- Number of condoms, excess amounts of cash, or multiple cell phones
- Lack of identification and/or apparent age discrepancy
- Lack of Knowledge about whereabouts
- Knives or some kind of weapon
- Inadequately or inappropriately dressed for their present situation
- Scripted Communications or inconsistencies in stories and use of language of “The Life”



More Red Flags

- Poor hygiene and/or malnourishment
- Bald patches or missing hair or fingernails
- Scars, mutilations, or infections due to improper medical care
- Vaginal and/or rectal trauma, urinary difficulties, pelvic pain, or pregnancy
- Unattended medical and/or dental issues
- Bruises in various stages of healing
- Reluctance to explain tattoos/ branding
- Over presence and controlling companion
- Unexplained gifts or items of value
- Fear, anxiety, depression, submissive, tense, and/or nervous
- Defensive, rude, evasive, and/or aggressive

DAMAGE TO THE VICTIM

A person with long hair is sitting on the ground, looking down. They are wearing a denim jacket and jeans. The background is dark and textured, possibly a wall or a rough surface. The overall mood is somber and distressed.

Sexually transmitted infections, HIV/AIDS, pelvic pain, rectal trauma and urinary difficulties.

Unwanted pregnancy, resulting from rape or prostitution.

Infertility from chronic untreated sexually transmitted infections or botched and unsafe abortions.

Substance abuse problems and addictions.

Psychological trauma from daily mental abuse and torture.

Malnourishment and serious dental problem.

Undetected and untreated diseases, such as diabetes or cancer.

Bruises, scars and other signs of physical abuse and torture.



Impact To The Victim



MOVING FORWARD



KLINGBERG FAMILY CENTERS



Connecticut Institute for Refugees and Immigrants



YouthContinuum






Recovery, success and happiness is possible after victimization!

- Victim was exploited from the age of 14 to 18 years old
- She had previous traumas of domestic abuse and bullying
- The perpetrator was a family friend who used his position of power and trust
- He gave her gifts and money to “keep quiet”
- She escaped and received therapy

Today she is a successful, career driven woman who is committed to building awareness and combatting human trafficking...

Steps to Prevention

- ✓ Prosocial Activities and Supports
- ✓ Positive Connections with family, peers, teachers, coaches and mentors
- ✓ Mentoring and Coaching
- ✓ Internet and Social Media Safety 
- ✓ Academic success and achievements
- ✓ Youth Employment Opportunities
- ✓ Educated community members regarding prevalence of sex trafficking and red flags
- ✓ Continued education for youth on sex trafficking and ways of being lured into the life



If you suspect a child in CT is a victim...



In an Emergency Call 911



Call DCF Careline 800-842-2288



Mandated reporters are required by law.



**Be very specific & detailed.
Use the words Human Trafficking.**



**NATIONAL
HUMAN
TRAFFICKING
HOTLINE**



CALL

1-888-373-7888



TEXT

"BeFree" (233733)



LIVE CHAT

humantraffickinghotline.org



HART Website Contact Page:

<https://portal.ct.gov/DCF/HART/Home>

Training Requests:

DCFHART@ct.gov

Resources

- CT HART Website: <http://www.ct.gov/dcf/cwp/view.asp?a=4743&Q=562246>
- National Center for Missing and Exploited Children (NCMEC): <http://www.missingkids.com/Training>
- Polaris Project: <http://www.polarisproject.org/human-trafficking/sex-trafficking-in-the-us>
- Blue Campaign/ Homeland Security: <http://www.dhs.gov/blue-campaign>
- Shared Hope International: <http://sharedhope.org/what-we-do/bring-justice/reportcards/>
- State of CT, Office of Victim Services: <http://www.jud.ct.gov/crimevictim/>
- State of CT, Office of the Victim Advocate: <http://www.ct.gov/ova/site/default.asp>

Love146
Spoken Words (3:00 Minutes)

Extra Videos