

# INTRODUCTION TO CHILD TRAFFICKING IN CONNECTICUT



# Overview

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



**Video** – Playground (4:40)

<http://www.nestfoundation.org/>

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

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

## Sex Trafficking

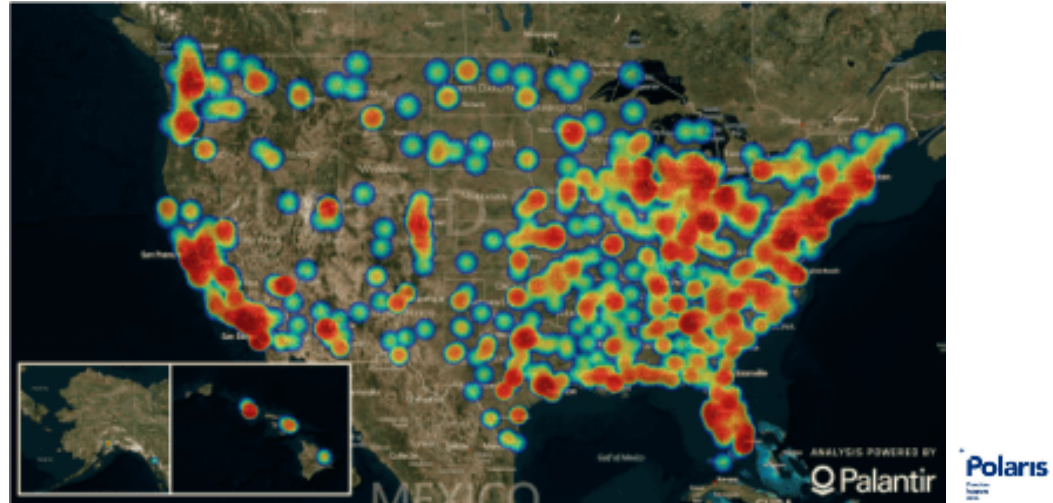
...a commercial sex act, in which a commercial sex act is induced by force, fraud or coercion, or in which the person induced to perform such an act has not attained 18 years of age. **“Commercial Sex Act” means any sex act on account of which anything of value is given to or received by any person.**

## 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.
- Victims should not be detained in facilities that are not appropriate for crime victims.
- Victims are to receive necessary medical care and other assistance.
- Victims are to be provided protection if their safety is at risk.
- Victims and their family members should be protected from intimidation and threats from traffickers and their associates.
- Victims and their family members' information should remain confidential.



**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 Trafficking

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



[www.bing.com/images](http://www.bing.com/images)

# Online Enticement

- 10.2 Million Reports, not including Sextortion (NCMEC, 2017)
- Victims Majority Female (78%) (NCMEC, 2015)
- Average Age 15
- Offenders Majority Male (82%) and Majority (98%) Not Known to Victim



Sextortion & Online Enticement – A Look at a New Epidemic:  
[https://drive.google.com/file/d/1\\_4mc-5WRCEz5IGvbecpypQONgI2u0Oye/view](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1_4mc-5WRCEz5IGvbecpypQONgI2u0Oye/view)

# Stalking

Stalking their victims  
online:

Social Media / Dating  
Websites / Chat Rooms

Stalking their victims in  
public places:

Malls/ Schools/ Bus  
Stops/ Public Places



# Websites & Apps used for Sex Trafficking

- TikTok
- letgo
- Onebackpage.com
- Cityxguide.com
- Callescort
- Sugardaddy.com
- Tinder
- Eros
- Humaniplex
- IMVU
- Seekingarrangements
- Meetme
- OfferUp
- Facebook
- Instagram
- PETS
- Match
- Kik
- Grindr
- Plenty of fish
- Snap chat
- Skout
- Skipthegames.com
- Eroticmugshots.com
- Xbox and PS4 Gaming Systems
- MegaPersonals



## DMST Legislation in Connecticut

- Minors under the age of 18 cannot be arrested for prostitution.
- Victims of DMST are guaranteed an affirmative defense, and have the right to vacate related juvenile records.
- Victims of DMST can be classified as “uncared for” in order for DCF to provide services.
- Suspected cases of DMST shall be reported to the DCF Careline (800-842-2288).
- DMST cases are to be addressed through Multi-Disciplinary Teams (MDTs).
- Buyers paying to sexually abuse a child can be charged with **Commercial Sexual Abuse of a Minor**. This crime is a Class B felony when the child being purchased is age 15 to 17 and Class A felony when the child is under the age of 15.

## Connecticut Child Trafficking Referrals

- **2008 thru 2018 – 1,056 unique children and youth referred**
- **Vulnerability: Majority of victims were on runaway/AWOL status; Majority of victims had experienced sexual abuse and/or neglect.**
- **Age range: 2 – 18**
- **Referrals: DCF Social Workers, Law enforcement, EMS, congregate care facilities, Courts, public defenders' office, NGOs, etc....**

# Language used in “The Life”

Circuit

Bottom Bitch

Daddy

Madam

Date

Quota

Stable

Trick

Pimp

Cousin-In-Laws

Family/ Folks

Kiddie Stroll

The Game/The Life

# Language Matters

Pimp

Trafficker or  
Exploiter

John

Buyer or Child  
Molester

# Child is Never a Prostitute



# Labor Trafficking

- U.S. citizens, foreign nationals, women, men, children, and LGBTQ individuals can be victims of labor trafficking.
- Vulnerable populations are frequently targeted by traffickers. Immigration status, recruitment debt, isolation, poverty, and a lack of strong labor protections are just some of the vulnerabilities that can lead to labor trafficking.
- Globally, the International Labor Organization estimates that there are **20.1 million people trapped in forced** labor in industries including agriculture, construction, domestic work and manufacturing, door to door sales crews, restaurants, carnivals, health and beauty services.

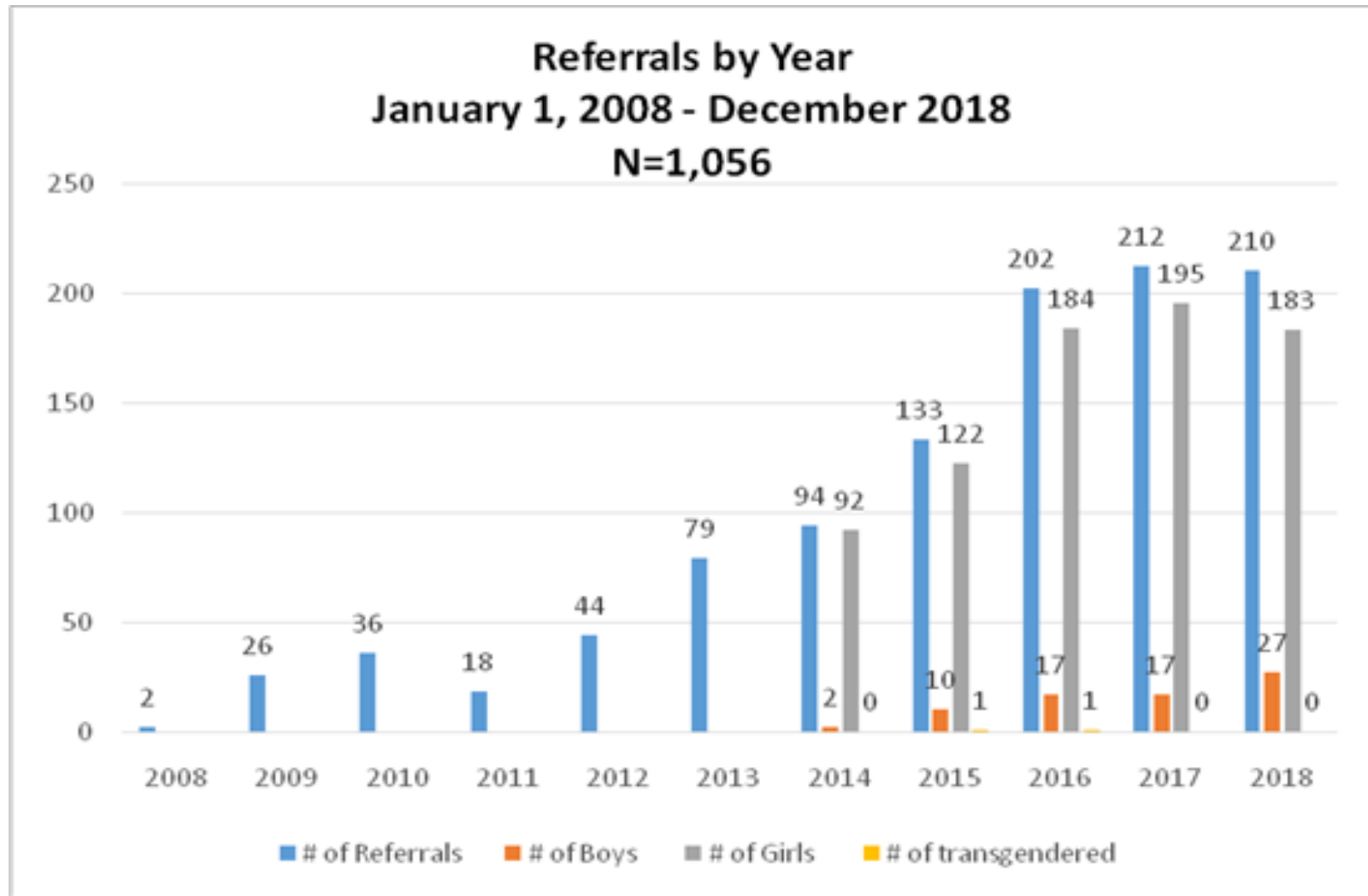
# Types of Labor Trafficking



- 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

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

# Referrals by Year 2008 – 2018

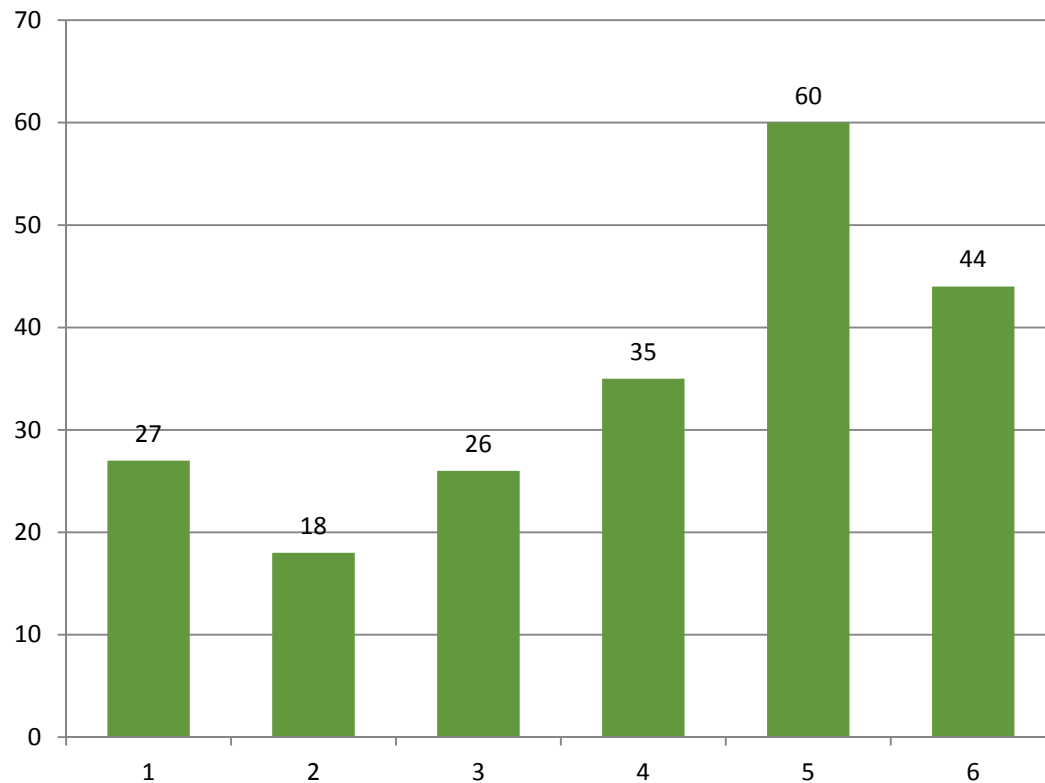


# Clients Served by Region in 2018

## Total =210

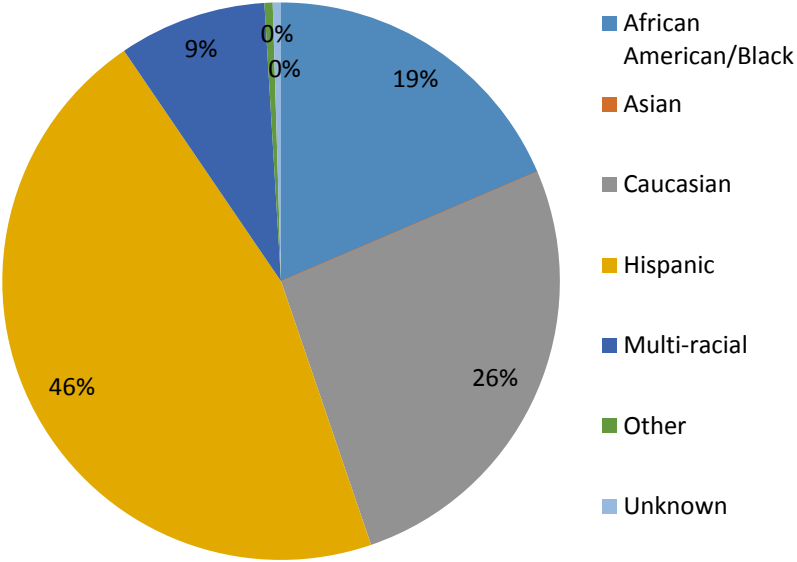


### Clients Served by Region



- Region 1: Bridgeport, Norwalk
- Region 2: New Haven, Milford
- Region 3: Middletown, Norwich, Willimantic
- Region 4: Hartford, Manchester
- Region 5: Danbury, Torrington, Waterbury
- Region 6: New Britain, Meriden

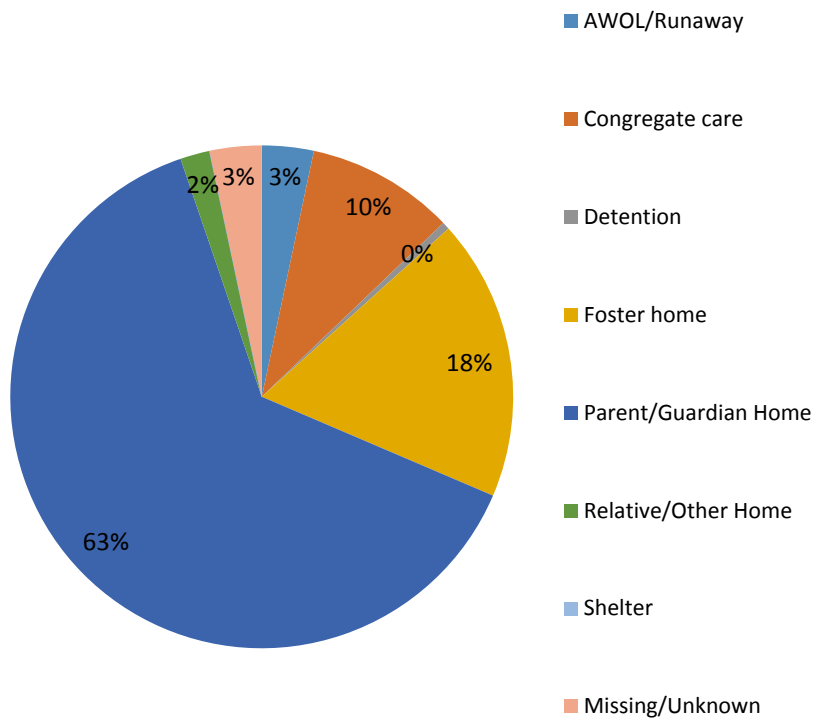
# 2018 Race/Ethnicity



- African American/Black - 39
- Caucasian - 55
- Hispanic - 96
- Asian - 0
- Multi-racial - 18
- Other - 1
- Unknown - 0

# 2018 Residence at Time of Exploitation

Residence at Time of Exploitation



- **Parent/Guardian Home -133**
- AWOL/Runaway - 7
- **Congregate care - 20**
- Detention - 1
- **Foster home - 38**
- **Relative/Other Home - 4**
- Shelter - 0
- **Missing/Unknown - 7**

*Nightline Report: Sex Trafficking in the US* (11:45)

# Video

## National Data Indicates....

- Females
- Children involved with Child Welfare
- Children from low income communities
- LGBTQI Youth
- Homeless Youth



...are at higher risk for victimization.



## VICTIM PROFILE



- Youth of any ethnicity, race, or religion
- Youth of any socio-economic class
- Youth both male and female
- Youth of any sexual orientation
- Youth of all ages, including teenagers
- Vulnerable youth
- Youth with histories of abuse
- Homeless, Runaway Youth
- Youth within the Foster Care System
- Youth lacking a Safety Net



**IT CAN BE ANYONE!**

# RISK FACTORS/ VULNERABILITIES AS A RESULT OF EXPOSURE TO TRAUMA

Children with a history of traumas such as...

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

...are at higher risk and more vulnerable to victimization by DMST.

## Justice Involved Youth

- Previous involvement with the criminal justice system also places youth at increased risk for entry into Child Trafficking.
- These youth may be reluctant to cooperate with law enforcement due to previous negative experiences.



“Youth survivors had a **fear of law enforcement** and expressed that their limited exposure was due to a **lack of trust** and negative experiences with being **treated as criminals**. Victims did not see police as a place for help.”

ICF interviews with CT victims, 2018

# Adolescence is a Risk Factor



**INNOCENCE SOLD**

*Movie Presentation*

*Three short films about the realities of sex trafficking*

The graphic features three small film stills: a young girl in a striped hoodie looking down, a young man in a cap holding a lollipop, and a young woman in a hoodie looking off to the side.

**Thank You Catherine Tatge, Executive Director**

Civic Life Project ([ctatge@civiclifeproject.org](mailto:ctatge@civiclifeproject.org)), (860)672-3395

\*Requests to utilize the films should be directed to Catherine Tatge for permissions.

# Adolescence is a Risk Factor (15:50 min)



## The Trafficker



# THE TRAFFICKER

- Can be a boyfriend, father, mother, brother, uncle, a police officer, clergy, a coach, a teacher or anyone exerting control over a minor, even a peer

- Not always organized criminals
- Both men and women of varying ages
- Any ethnicity or race



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

# Very Young Girls Documentary

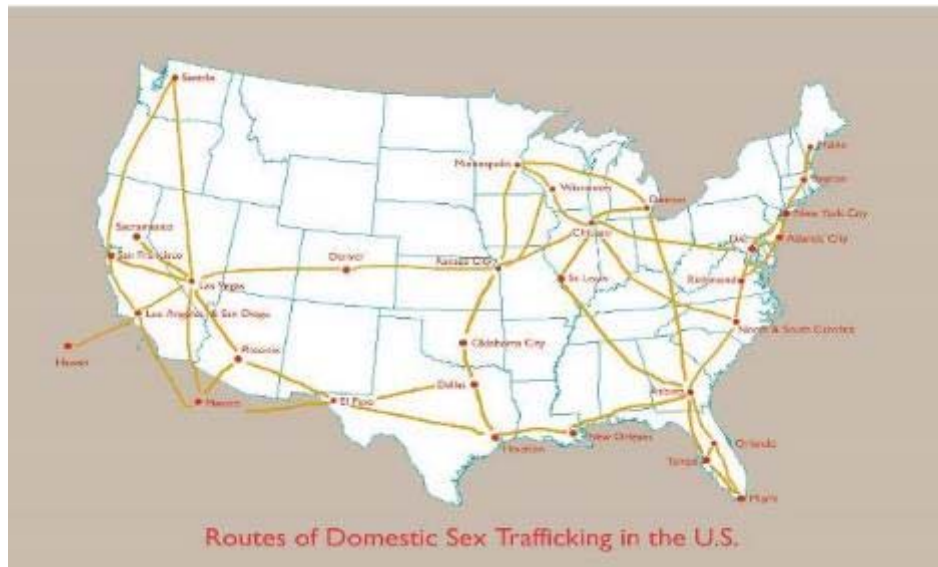
## Shaneiqua's Story (8:45)

# THE TACTICS

- **Force** = Violence
- **Fraud** = Seduction, Grooming
- **Coercion** = Threats of Violence
  - Infiltrating a congregate care setting with a “bottom bitch”
  - Scouting at schools, trains and bus stations, malls, cinemas, ANYWHERE THAT CHILDREN AND YOUTH SPEND TIME
  - Looking for weaknesses

# Routes of Human Trafficking in the U.S.

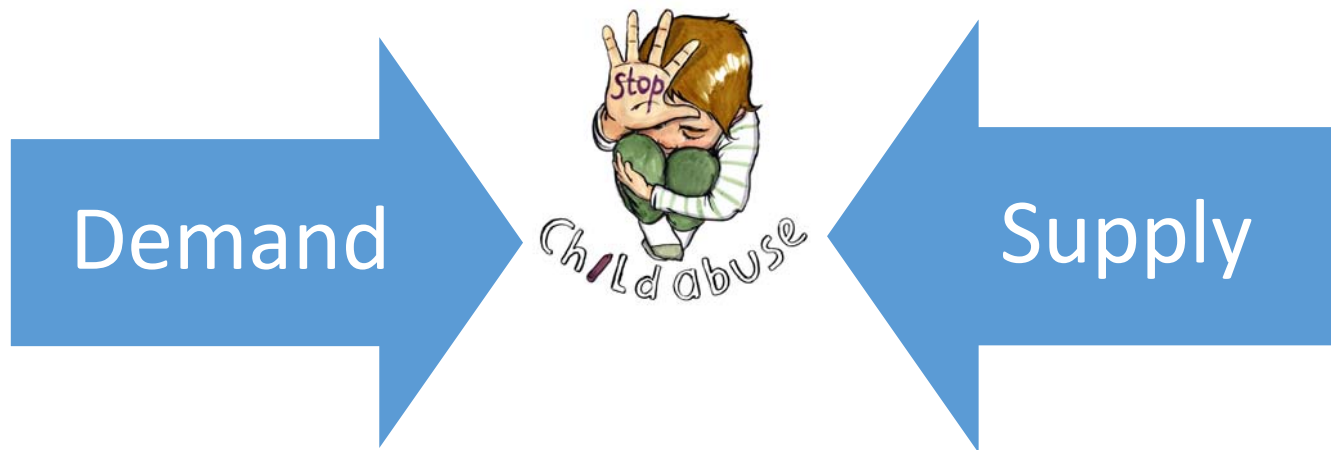
\*Crossing state lines not required\*



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

# The Buyer

## The Economics of Human Trafficking



# Who Buys Sex

- “High-frequency” buyers represent 75% of the market transactions and first purchased sex by the time they turned 21
- High-frequency buyers are much 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 who purchase sex report ever having been arrested for it



## Buyers on ONE given night...

- Numbers of **Buyers** per night can range between 5-25.
- 150,000 victims having sex with 10 **Buyers** per night would mean that on **a given night** there are **1,500,000 buyers exploiting children.**
- “...in the State of Connecticut, the rates at which prostitutes are convicted is 7 times that of those who buy sex.” TIP:  
[https://ctcwcs.files.wordpress.com/2016/07/tip-council\\_sept-15\\_minutes.pdf](https://ctcwcs.files.wordpress.com/2016/07/tip-council_sept-15_minutes.pdf)

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

# A Connecticut Case

IN 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 DOLLARS

NONE OF WHICH SHE KEPT.

# Victim Identification & Red Flags



# Impact To The Victim



# Damage To The Victim

- Sexually transmitted diseases, HIV/AIDS, pelvic pain, rectal trauma and urinary difficulties
- Unwanted pregnancy, resulting from victimization
- Infertility from chronic untreated sexually transmitted infections or unsafe abortions
- Substance abuse problems or addictions
- Psychological trauma from daily mental abuse and torture
- Malnourishment and serious dental problem
- Undetected or untreated diseases
- Bruises, scars and other signs of physical abuse and torture

# Why Do Victims Stay?



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

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

- 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
- 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

# Trauma Bonding: Definition & Indicators

*A trauma bond is a strong psychological and emotional connection between a victim of abuse and his/her abuser. Victims may be so attached that they believe they cannot survive or are worthless without their abuser.*

- Intensely grateful for small kindness;
- Denies/Rationalizes violence;
- Believes she has some control over abuse;
- Self-blame for situation and abuse;
- Seeks to keep the exploiter happy;
- Sees outside authorities/providers as bad guys;
- Sees the “trafficker” as the good guy/protector;
- Thankful/grateful that the “trafficker” has not killed her.

# CNN News Report: Selling the Girl Next Door

8:00 Min

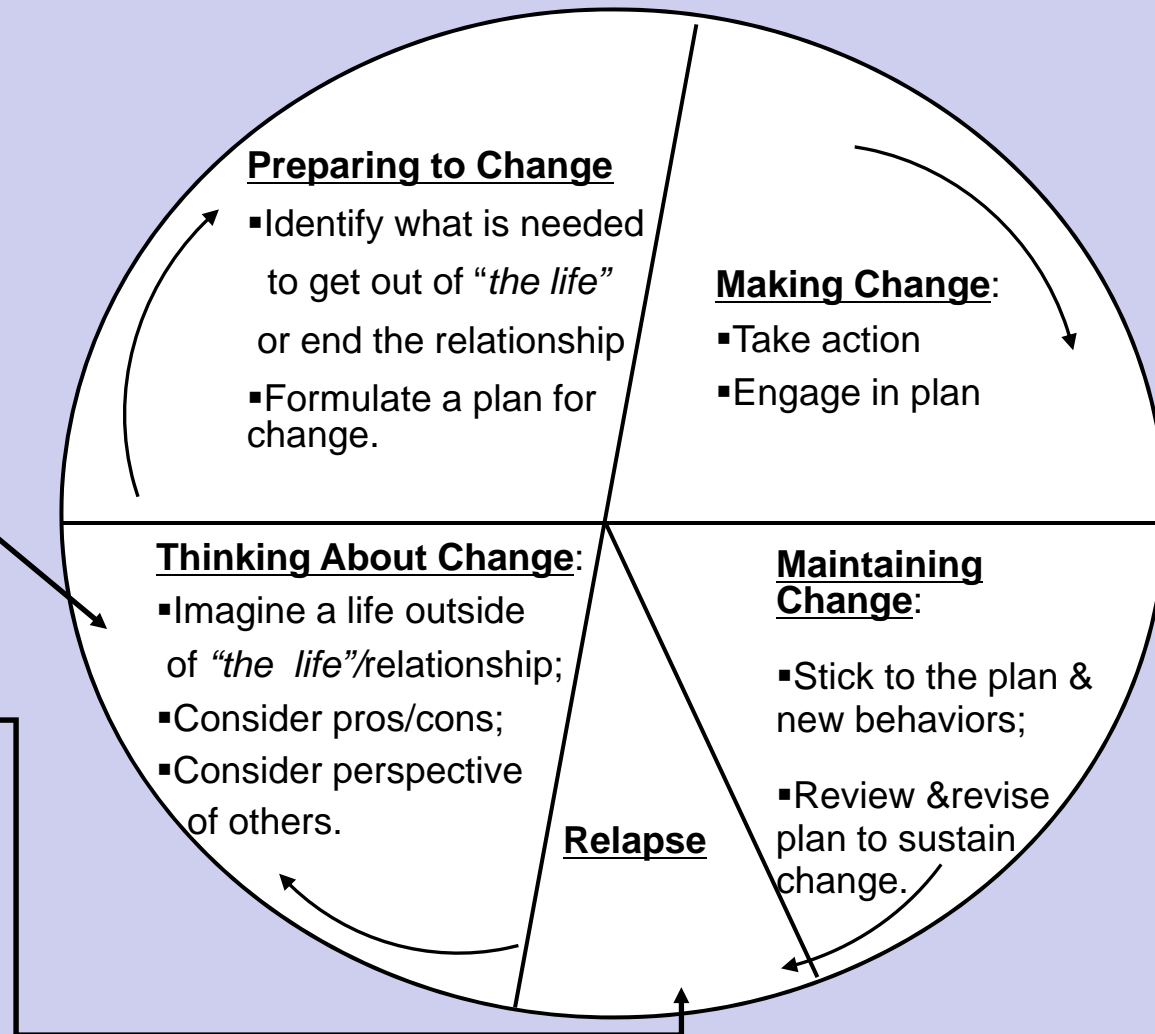
# Stages of Change

## Precontemplation

- Outside of the Cycle of Change;
- Minimize Behaviors;
- May have a sense of agency/hopelessness;
- Unwilling/unable to consider perspective of others;
- Intense loyalty/affection for trafficker/abuser/peers group ...

## Relapse

- Experience challenges & disillusionment caused by change;
- Experience loss & longing associated with change;
- Temporary return to old behaviors/relationships.



## IDENTIFYING CASES OF CHILD TRAFFICKING

Due to the covert nature of the crime, sex trafficking can come to your attention indirectly through other violations:

- “Prostitution”
- Domestic violence crimes
- Drug charges
- **Runaways/homeless \*1 out of 7**
- Cases of assault
- Curfew violation/Truancy
- Loitering/trespassing
- Cases of sexual abuse/neglect
- Motor Vehicle Stops
- Responding to house parties
  - Conducting a simple house scan
- Assessing motels in locality
- Adequately assessing school incidents, familial violence, and cases of bullying

**\*NCMEC, 2018**



# 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
- Presenting with new clothing, electronics, or items of value without reasonable explanation of how obtained
- Inadequately or inappropriately dressed for situation
- Presence of a companion who answers for the youth
- Language of the Life
- Inconsistent/or scripted communication
- Lack of identification and/or apparent age discrepancy
- Reluctance to explain tattoos/ branding
- Bruises in various stages of healing





## Red Flags cont.....

- Poor hygiene
- Malnourishment
- Bald patches/ missing hair or fingernails
- Scars, mutilations, or infections due to improper medical care
- Lack of Knowledge about whereabouts
- Vaginal/ rectal trauma, urinary difficulties, pelvic pain, or pregnancy
- Unattended medical issues
- Serious dental issues
- Demeanor – fear, anxiety, depression, submissive, tense, nervous
- Attitude – defensive, rude, evasive, aggressive
- Knives or some kind of weapon



# Steps to Prevention



- ✓ Prosocial activities/supports
- ✓ Positive Connections (family, kin, coaches, guidance counselor, church youth group, etc.)
- ✓ Continued education for youth on sex trafficking and ways of being lured into the life
- ✓ Internet and Social Media Safety
- ✓ School success
- ✓ Youth employment opportunities
- ✓ Educated community regarding prevalence of sex trafficking and red flags (i.e. schools, leaders, police, etc.)



## Existing Resources in CT

- **Youth Awareness** - 45 to 60 minute Youth Awareness presentation to educate youth ages 12 to 18 on child trafficking. Can be done in assembly format.
- **Not a #Number** – 5 session prevention curriculum developed by Love 146 on Human Trafficking for girls, boys and LGBTQI youth, ages 12 to 18.
- **My Life My Choice** - 10-session Exploitation Prevention Curriculum designed to change girls' (ages 12 to 18) perceptions of the commercial sex industry, as well as build self-esteem and personal empowerment.
- **Survivor Care: Rapid Response** - Rapid Responses are one-time interventions designed to target the unique risk factors and needs of individual youth who have been identified as confirmed victims, or highly suspected victims of human trafficking.
- **Survivor Care: Long Term** - Love146's Survivor Care Therapeutic Case Management Program journeys with and provides support services to youth who are confirmed survivors of human trafficking.



# Existing Resources in CT cont....

- **Foster Care** – There are Therapeutic Foster Parents who are trained to provide support and placement for youth at high risk and/ or confirmed victims of DMST in CT.
- **Mentoring** – There are DMST trained mentors in CT.
- **Wilderness School** – Specialized events in partnership with Love 146/ Survivor Care.



# Mandated Reporting

## Reasonable Cause to Suspect:

- Observed
  - Allegations
  - Facts or statements by a child, victim, or third party
- \*Certainty or probable cause is not required!**

## Preliminary Investigation:

- ✓ A mandated reporter should not conduct their own investigation prior to making a report.
- ✓ Remember Minimal Facts!
- ✓ If Child Trafficking is suspected a referral should be made to the DCF Careline. **1-800-842-2288**

**If there are immediate safety concerns call 911!**

**Whether or not you are a Mandated Reporter the right thing to do is report your suspicions.**



If there is reasonable cause to SUSPECT human trafficking of a child in CT call the DCF Careline at 800-842-2288.

Be very clear to inform the screener that you suspect that the child may be a victim of

human trafficking



National Human  
Trafficking Hotline

at

**888-373-7888**

Text

**233733**

## Contact Information



HART Website Contact Page:

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

Training Requests:

[DCFHART@ct.gov](mailto:DCFHART@ct.gov)

# Resource List

- 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>

# Spoken Word Video (Love 146) (3 Min)

# Online Enticement

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# Sextortion & Online Enticement - A Look at a New Epidemic (Sextortion 90 Second PSA) (2 Min)