THE COMMERCIAL SEXUAL EXPLOITATION OF CHILDREN (CSEC)

This product was supported by cooperative agreement number 2015-VT-BX-K018, awarded by the Office for Victims of Crime, Office of Justice Programs, U.S. Department of Justice. The opinions, findings, and conclusions or recommendations expressed in this product are those of the contributors and do not necessarily represent the official position or policies of the U.S. Department of Justice.
AGENDA

- Definitions & Concepts
- Prevalence in San Diego County
- Recruitment Tactics & Techniques
- Warning Signs
- Mandated Reporting
IMPORTANCE OF LANGUAGE

Prostitute

Commercially Sexually Exploited Child/Youth
The abuse of power differentials or the exploitation of a person’s vulnerabilities in order to induce a sex act in exchange for something of value
Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children (CSEC)

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.

A form of violence against children.
CSEC INCLUDES:

- Street Walking
- Pornography
- Survival Sex
- Stripping
- Escort Agencies
- Phone sex lines
- Video Chats
- Private Parties
- Internet based exploitation
- Erotic/nude massage
- Gang-based prostitution
- Interfamiliar pimping
TRAFFICKING VICTIMS PROTECTION ACT OF 2000

Any labor or commercial sex act induced by force, fraud, or coercion, or in which the person induced to perform such an act has not attained 18 years of age, for the profit of a third party.
HUMAN TRAFFICKING IN SAN DIEGO

• Largest, most comprehensive human trafficking research study to date

• $810 million Underground Commercial Sex Economy
  • $536,000 estimated earnings annually per trafficker

• 110 gangs are involved in commercial exploitation of people
  • 85% of pimps/sex trafficking facilitators interviewed were gang involved

Carpenter & Gates, 2015
HUMAN TRAFFICKING IN SAN DIEGO

- At least 8,000 victims/survivors per year in San Diego County
- 15-16 years old is the average age of entry
- Majority of victims/survivors born here
  - 20% of trafficking victims are from Mexico and ten other countries

Carpenter & Gates, 2015
**RISK FACTORS: ENVIRONMENTAL**

- Poverty
- Lack of community resources/opportunities
- Violence/gangs in neighborhood
- Transient male population
- Existing adult sex industry
SEXUAL EXPLOITATION OF BOYS
SEXUAL EXPLOITATION OF BOYS

- Research shows that as high as 50% of CSEC in the United States are boys (Curtis, et al, 2008)
- Boys are at high risk of engaging in survival sex
- Boys are largely recruited by friends or peers and do not commonly have pimps
- Boys are typically bought by adult males
- The average age of entry into sexual exploitation is between 11-13 years old
CHALLENGES OF EXPLOITED BOYS

- Unwillingness of boys to self-identify as CSEC due to shame and stigma about being gay or being perceived as gay by family and community
- Lack of screening and intake by law enforcement and social services agencies
- Limited outreach
- Homophobia
SEXUAL EXPLOITATION OF LGBTQ+ YOUTH
SEXUAL EXPLOITATION OF LGBTQ+ YOUTH

- Rejection of youth’s sexual orientation, gender identity, and gender expression (SOGIE) by parents and peers leads to increased homelessness
- Twice as likely to have a history of running away or being kicked out of the home
- Seven times more likely to be detained or incarcerated for exchanging sex acts for money

Irvine, et al, 2017
SEXUAL EXPLOITATION OF LGBTQ+ YOUTH

- More likely to be criminalized and detained for minor offenses
- The average age that youth began exchanging sex for money and/or material goods is 17 years old.
  - Though, the age of entry ranged from 7 to 22 years old
- May not fit traditional model of pimp-controlled or gang-controlled sex trafficking
- Exploitation by a house parent or in exchange for basic needs
- Sexual activity may or may not be consistent with their identity

Polaris Project, 2015
CHALLENGES LGBTQ+ YOUTH FACE

- **Discrimination** from family, peer groups, and society

- **Exclusion** from services and resources

- **Abuse** from their home of origin and also in foster homes and group homes
THE CULTURE OF “THE LIFE”
WAY OF LIFE IN “THE LIFE”

- Manipulation
- Illusion of family
  - Pimp = boyfriend, support person, father figure, role model, connection, bank manager, plans their future together, affection, security
- How she feels:
  - Cute, traveled, independent (don’t have to rely on programs or family), accomplished, appreciated, special, has money and not in survival mode all the time
- Substance use
- Violence
  - Actual and assumed
  - Emotional and physical
## COMMON TERMS USED

- Pimp/Boyfriend/Daddy/Manager
- Trick/John/Date
- The Game/The Life
- Circuit/Track/Blade/Buli
- Bottom Bitch/Ho/Strollie
- Choosing up
- Trap House
- Stable

- Wifey/Sister Wife/Wife in Law
- Family/Folks/Squad
- Out of Pocket
- Working/”Trappin”
- Rack/Dough
- Posting/Backpage/Red book
- Telly
- THOT or “Thottie”
- Square
TRADITIONAL HIERARCHY OF “THE LIFE”

- Pimp
- Bottom Bitch
- Wifey
- Wifey
- Wifey
MINDSET OF A SEXUALLY EXPLOITED YOUTH

- Youth do not identify as victims
- Coached/manipulated
  - Youth may fabricate their history with scripted stories
  - Taught to distrust service professionals and law enforcement
- Trauma Bonded
  - Deep loyalty to the trafficker and the stable/family
  - Grateful that they have not been killed yet
  - Fear for their safety and the safety of loved ones
- Self-blame
  - Feelings of worthlessness and shame
  - Feel “deserving” to be treated poorly by the exploiters and buyers
• Trolley and bus stops
• House parties
• Neighborhood parks near schools
• Middle and High schools
• El Cajon Blvd

• Social media
• Online games
• Online apps
• Tattoo parlors
• Malls
• Churches
WARNING SIGNS
GENERAL WARNING SIGNS

- Explicit sexual online profile via internet community sites such as Facebook, Instagram, SnapChat
- Dating apps on their phone
- Unrelenting attachment to phone
- Prepaid credit cards, hotel/motel key cards
- Presence of older “boyfriend” or peer

- Lack of identification, appearance does not match age stated
- Change in dress and general appearance (nails and hair done)
- New items (cell phone, clothing, jewelry)
- Not going to school/not coming home
- New tattoos
BRANDING
INTERSECTION OF CHILD WELFARE SERVICES AND CSEC

LIVE WELL
SAN DIEGO
“Being in foster care was the perfect training for commercial sexual exploitation. I was used to being moved without warning, without any say, not knowing where I was going or whether I was allowed to pack my clothes. After years in foster care, I didn’t think anyone would want to take care of me unless they were paid. So, when my pimp expected me to make money to support ‘the family’, it made sense to me.”

- Former foster youth
MANDATED REPORTING LAW

• Effective Jan 1, 2016

• Mandated Reporting Law amended to include CSEC

• Call Child Abuse Hotline 1-800-344-6000
• Brings sex trafficking of children under our jurisdiction

• General Neglect – failure to protect or to provide
CSEC PROGRAM AND PROTOCOL

• Steering Committee

• Establishes procedures for investigations and case management services

• Screening tool: Commercial Sexual Exploitation – Identification Tool (CSE-IT)

• Multi-disciplinary Team meetings

• Prevention via interaction with social workers
Child Abuse Hotline:
1-800-344-6000

Law Enforcement Hotline:
1-888-242-5722
Gateways to Safety

“There is always one moment in childhood when the door opens and lets the future in.”

-Deepak Chopra
CONTACT INFORMATION

Name

- Child Welfare Services
- Phone
- Email