Sex Trafficking, Exploitation & Safe Harbor Training
Objectives

- Define sex trafficking in Minnesota
- Understand the dynamics, risk factors, and signs
- Review Minnesota’s response
- Understand Minnesota’s Safe Harbor Law, No Wrong Door Model, and role of Regional Navigators
- Build your response
WHAT IS HUMAN TRAFFICKING?

When one person obtains or holds another person in compelled service.
Women and girls represent 98% of the 4.5 million victims of forced sexual exploitation.
There are at least 21 million adults and children being trafficked for labor or sex at any given time.

- International Labor Organization
“Sex trafficking is not new to Minnesota, nor is it confined to the Twin Cities metropolitan area; it affects communities throughout the state.”

Legal Definitions

- United Nations Palermo Protocol
- Federal Trafficking Victims Protection Act
- Minnesota Law
# Federal Law

<table>
<thead>
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<th>ACTION: What the trafficker did with the victim</th>
<th>Recruited, harbored, transported, provided, or obtained</th>
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<td>MEANS: How the victim was brought into and kept in the situation</td>
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<td><strong>18 +:</strong> Force, Fraud, or Coercion</td>
<td><strong>Under 18:</strong> (just that it happened = by any means)</td>
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<td>PURPOSE: For what purpose or goal?</td>
<td>Commercial sex act</td>
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Minnesota Law

**ACTION:** What the trafficker did with the victim
- Received, recruited, enticed, harbored, provided, or obtained

**MEANS:** How the victim was brought into and kept in the situation
- BY ANY MEANS (Regardless of victim’s age)

**PURPOSE:** For what purpose or goal?
- To aid in the prostitution of the individual.
Federal Law

Requires showing of **force, fraud, or coercion** if victim is over 18.

 Trafficked for purposes of **commercial sex act**

Minnesota Law

Victim can be trafficked **“by any means”** regardless of age.

 Trafficked for purposes of **prostitution**
In sex trafficking is a form of pimping.
Sex trafficking and prostitution are a part of the same continuum of criminal activity:

The sexual exploitation of vulnerable people, primarily women and girls.
Forms of Sexual Exploitation

SEXUAL EXPLOITATION
- Sexual Harassment
- Sexual Abuse/Assault
- Pornography
- Stripping

COMMERCIAL SEXUAL EXPLOITATION
- Prostitution
- Sex Trafficking
- Survival Sex

- Do Justice LLC 2014
Is it a *Choice*?
Myth of Choice: The Reality of the Life

Reality for the majority of prostituted individuals

Sexually Exploited Elite
Age 12 – 14

Average age of entry into prostitution for a person who is prostituted as a juvenile.
Harms

86% suffer from an emotional, physical, or mental disability

85% are victims of childhood sexual abuse, rape, or incest

75% are victims of physical abuse as a child

83% are victims of assault with a deadly weapon

57% are victims of kidnapping

71% of women have PTSD

99% are chemically dependent

- Breaking Free
The Real Faces of Sex Trafficking
The Real Faces of Sex Trafficking
92% of individuals in prostitution reported that they wanted to leave prostitution

Dynamics of Sex Trafficking and Prostitution

Who is being trafficked?

How does this happen?

Why does this happen?
Who is being trafficked?
Sex Trafficking Risk Factors

- Poverty
- Youth
- Race
- History of abuse
- Lack of resources
- History of prostitution in the family
- Lack of immigration status
- Chemical dependency
- Lack of support systems
How does trafficking happen?
How does it happen?

- **Recruitment**
- **Initiation / Breaking**
- **Barriers to escape / Methods of control**
Common Methods of Recruitment

- Relationship with someone involved in prostitution - Family member; “Boyfriend”
- Homelessness
- Drug abuse
- Solicitation by an adult
- Lured through promises of work or benefits
- Start working as “dancers”
- Places where youth congregate – school; mall; library
- Social media

Victims often know their recruiter
3 OUT OF 4 VICTIMS ARE TRAFFICKED ONLINE

"I was advertised in the same way as a car or a phone, but with even less value than a bike."

- Quote from victim/plaintiff in case against Backpage.com
Common Methods of Breaking

- Isolation
- Rape / Gang Rape / “Train”
- Sexual, Physical, and Emotional Abuse / Torture
- Inducing or enabling a chemical addiction
- Pornography / blackmail
- New Name / Identity

Anything to break their resistance
Common Methods of Breaking

- Tattoo of ownership
- First customer
- Exploiting feelings of worthlessness / damaged goods
- Threat of criminal prosecution or deportation
- Exploiting trauma bond – loyalty towards family or “boyfriend”
Common Methods of Control

Why doesn’t she leave?

- Continued use of “breaking” techniques
- Ongoing actual or threat of abuse / torture
- Making an “example” out of another victim
- Withholding money or identity documents
- Threats to family or children
- Causing and exploiting a pregnancy
- Pressure and guilt by playing the “friendship/boyfriend” card
Prostitution vs. Trafficking

Choice vs. Force
Why does it happen?

What factors contribute to sex trafficking?
What do you see when you look at your fellow man?

some people see a profit.

Help Stop Human Trafficking Now.

There are more people being bought and sold at this moment, than in the entire 300-year history of the Atlantic Slave Trade.
SOCIAL
- racism
- sexism & misogyny
- homophobia & transphobia
- materialism
- promotion/tolerance of ‘rape culture’
- patriarchy

ENVIRONMENTAL
- substance abuse
- peer pressure
- poverty
- community & family dysfunction
- violence
- gang activity

INDIVIDUAL
- PTSD
- domestic abuse & neglect
- LGBTQ identity
- mental health disorders
- runaways & throwaways
- Developmental / learning disabilities
- poverty
- peer pressure
- violence
Purchasers Trafficked Persons
Pimps and sex traffickers
Culture that tolerates and promotes sexual exploitation - sex trafficking & prostitution
“Purchasers”

- Adapted from The Demand for Victims of Sex Trafficking, Donna Hughes, 2005.
“Women and girls who are more likely to be victims of pimps or domestic traffickers often make up 70 to 90% of the prostitution-related arrests.”

“Men who solicit or purchase sex acts often only make up 10 to 30% of the prostitution-related arrests.”

Stop trafficking and sexual exploitation BEFORE it occurs.

Every $1 spent on prevention and early intervention, saves us $34 in costs later.
Minnesota’s Response to Sex Trafficking and Exploitation
Anti-trafficking / Safe Harbor History in MN

<table>
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<th>Year</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tr>
<td>2006</td>
<td>Statewide Human Trafficking Task Force created.</td>
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<td>2008</td>
<td>Sex Trafficking Needs Assessment identifies gaps in legal system.</td>
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<tr>
<td>2009</td>
<td>Sex trafficking laws amended to increase penalties against traffickers.</td>
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<tr>
<td>2010</td>
<td>A Future, Not a Past and MN Safe Harbor initiatives begin examining response to sexually exploited youth.</td>
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<tr>
<td>2011</td>
<td>Safe Harbor enacted.</td>
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<td>2011-2012</td>
<td>Statewide consultation process creates the No Wrong Door model for Safe Harbor.</td>
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<tr>
<td>2013</td>
<td>Safe Harbor amended and initial Safe Harbor system funding secured.</td>
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<tr>
<td>2014</td>
<td>Safe Harbor takes effect August 1, 2014</td>
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Sexually exploited youth under 17 years old and under can no longer be criminalized for engaging in prostitution in Minnesota but should be referred to services.
Safe Harbor Law

- Included definition of sexually exploited youth in Minnesota’s child protection statues/laws (effective: 2011)
- Increases penalty against purchasers of adult victims (“Johns”) (effective: 2011)
- Excluded sexually exploited youth under 18 from the definition of a delinquent child (effective: August 2014)
- Delayed effective date of decriminalization until 2014
- Ordered development of a statewide model response
No Wrong Door: Providing Safe Harbor for Minnesota’s Sexually Exploited Youth

Contact Through Social Services, Community Organizations and Business

Community/Social Service Professionals

Statewide Director Advisory Committee

Regional Navigators Six Regions

Supportive Services Housing Services

To meet the many needs of sexually exploited youth.
Culturally Specific Gender Responsive

System Contact and System Involved

Juvenile Justice Professionals

Justice System
Child Welfare System
Child Protection
Juvenile Justice
Underlying Values and Philosophy

- Those who come in contact with youth should be trained to identify sexual exploitation.
- Youth who are sexually exploited are victims of a crime.
- Victims should not feel afraid, isolated or trapped.
- Sexual exploitation is traumatic. Victim centered services should be based in trauma-informed care.
Underlying Values and Philosophy

- Services should be responsive to needs of youth (gender-responsive, culturally competent, age appropriate, supportive for LGBTQ youth).
- Services should be offered statewide.
- Youth have the right to privacy and self-determination.
- Services should be based in positive youth development.
- Sexual exploitation can be prevented.
Implementation of Safe Harbor and No Wrong Door

Training and Education for professionals

Housing for sexually exploited youth

Services for sexually exploited youth
Implementation of Safe Harbor

SAFE HARBOR
builds off existing resources and services

- Homeless youth housing and services
- DV/SV Shelter and services
The State of Minnesota awards funding to support housing for sexually exploited youth.
Implementation of Safe Harbor Services

Safe Harbor Services Grantees

The State of Minnesota awards funding to support victim-centered, trauma-informed services
Implementation of Safe Harbor

Coordination

STATEWIDE SAFE HARBOR DIRECTOR – Responsible for training and communication, policy development, identification of best practices, evaluation, securing federal victim services funding, and managing grant program and data sharing protocols for Regional Navigators.

REGIONAL NAVIGATORS – 8 organizations are the base for Regional Navigators – the main points of contact for sexually exploited youth and concerned agencies throughout Minnesota. Navigators connect youth with services and serve as regional experts for communities.
Implementation of Safe Harbor

Regional Navigators

- DOVE on White Earth (Northwest Tribal)
- Minnesota Indian’s Women’s Resource Center (Tribal)
- Support Within Reach (Northwest)
- PAVSA (Northeast)
- Heartland Girls’ Ranch (West Central)
- Lutheran Social Services (Central)
- Tubman (East Metro)
- The Link (West Metro)
- Olmsted County Victim Services (Southeast)
- Southwest Crisis Center (Southwest)
Implementation of Safe Harbor

Regional Navigators Role

- Training & Education
- Direct Services to SEY
- Additional Services
- Systems Coordination
- Outreach
- Capacity Building
Build your Response

- Know the issues
- Connect with Regional Navigators
- Understand the dynamics
- Maintain the values and philosophies
Together, we can create a society where ALL are Valued and Protected.