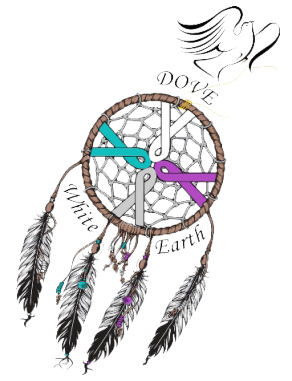




# SAFE HARBOR IN INDIAN COUNTRY

## SEXUAL EXPLOITATION IN NATIVE COMMUNITIES



### WHAT IS SEXUAL EXPLOITATION?

The exchange of sexual activity for money, shelter, drugs, or something else of value. Includes (but is not limited to) prostitution, sex trafficking, survival sex, stripping or pornography.

### WHAT MAY CAUSE SOMEONE TO BE VULNERABLE TO SEXUAL EXPLOITATION?

- Homeless/Runaway
- History of sexual abuse
- Involvement in child welfare system
- Truancy
- Drug addiction
- Disabilities, mental illness

### NATIVE COMMUNITIES ARE PARTICULARLY VULNERABLE:



**1 in 3 Native women will be sexually assaulted at least once in their lifetime.**

- In 2013, 31% of American Indian 9th grade girls in MN reported running away from home, compared to 8% of all girls in ninth grade.<sup>1</sup>
- One in three Native women will be sexually assaulted at least once in their lifetime, a rate 2.5 times higher than the general population.<sup>2</sup>
- American Indian children represent less than 2% of Minnesota’s population but comprise 11.1% of the state’s out-of-home placements.<sup>3</sup>

### WHAT TO LOOK FOR:

- Older boyfriend or girlfriend
- New possessions, unexplained income
- Cash, prepaid credit cards, burner phones
- Frequent calls to cell phone
- Truancy and running away from home
- Withdrawn or guarded behavior

*“Women like myself need someone they feel they can trust without being judged by how they lived their life. We didn’t wake up and choose to become a whore or a hooker or a ‘ho’ as they call us. We need someone to understand where we came from and how we lived and that half us were raped, beat, and made to sell our bodies. We need people with hearts.”<sup>4</sup>*

– Native survivor of sex trafficking

### KEY FACTS

In a study of Native women in prostitution in Minnesota:<sup>5</sup>

# 98

percent were or had been homeless

# 92

percent wanted to escape prostitution

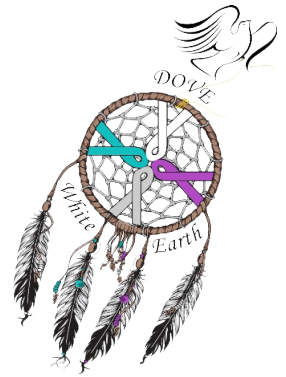
# 79

percent had been sexually abused as children



# SAFE HARBOR IN INDIAN COUNTRY

## RESPONDING TO SEXUALLY EXPLOITED YOUTH



### DAY ONE 24-HOUR HOTLINE

Statewide connection for housing and other services for victims of sexual exploitation and domestic violence.

**1-866-223-1111**

### REGIONAL NAVIGATORS

If you encounter a youth who you suspect is being sexually exploited, contact your regional navigator, who can help connect the youth with services.

#### Minnesota Indian Women's Resource Center (612) 728-2000

- Bois Forte Band of Chippewa
- Fond du Lac Band of Lake Superior Chippewa
- Grand Portage Band of Lake Superior Chippewa
- Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe
- Lower Sioux Indian Community
- Prairie Island Indian Community
- Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community
- Upper Sioux Dakota Indian Community

#### Ashley Zurn, Down on Violence Everyone (DOVE) (218) 983-4656 (877) 830-3683 (24 hrs)

- Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe
- Red Lake Nation
- White Earth Band of Ojibwe

### SAFE HARBOR

The state of Minnesota's law and response to sexually exploited youth

- Youth under the age of 18 **may not be arrested or charged** with prostitution.
- Sexually exploited youth now fall under the state's **child protection** code.
- **Regional navigators** can help assist victims and coordinate community response.
- **Training** is being provided to systems professionals and law enforcement.

For more information about Safe Harbor, visit [health.state.mn.us/injury/topic/safeharbor](http://health.state.mn.us/injury/topic/safeharbor)

## SAVE THE DATE

May 24-25, 2016

Location: Mystic Lake Casino & Hotel, Prior Lake, MN

# SAFE HARBOR TRIBAL SUMMIT

Conference to enhance tribal and state response to sexual exploitation and sex trafficking

*Sponsored and hosted by the Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community*

For more information, contact Brandon Alkire at [daryl.alkire@co.ramsey.mn.us](mailto:daryl.alkire@co.ramsey.mn.us)

*"A 'john' said to a Native trafficked woman: 'I thought we killed all of you.' But they did not. Native people are still here, revitalizing traditional ways so that Native women will once again be treated as sacred."*

*– Christine Stark*

### ENDNOTES

1. "Minnesota Student Survey," Minnesota Center for Health Statistics, Minnesota Department of Health. (2013).
2. "Prevalence and Characteristics of Sexual Violence, Stalking, and Intimate Partner Violence Victimization — National Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence Survey, United States." Division of Violence Prevention, National Center for Injury Prevention and Control, CDC. (2011).
3. "Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA) Active Efforts Best Practices," Child Safety and Permanency Division, Minnesota Department of Human Services. (2009).
4. *Garden of Truth: The Prostitution and Trafficking of Native Women in Minnesota*, Minnesota Indian Women's Sexual Assault Coalition and Prostitution Research & Education (2011).
5. Ibid.
6. "Native women easy prey for traffickers," Christine Stark, Star Tribune. (2013).

For more information, see *Shattered Hearts: The Commercial Sexual Exploitation Of American Indian Women And Girls In Minnesota*, Minnesota Indian Women's Resource Center (2009).