

# Breaking Down Stereotypes and Misconceptions about Trafficked Youth

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# Objectives

1. Break down stereotypes and misconceptions about commercial sex trafficking victims who are involved in the system.
2. Provide audience with a detailed experiences and scenarios to understand specific needs of street involved victims.
3. Provide audience with tools to determine their readiness to effectively assess needs as well as support street involved youth

# Making of A Girl

# What comes to mind when you hear these words?

- Pimp
- Prostitute
- Johns
- Human Trafficking

# Myths and Misconceptions

- Illusion

1. Choice
2. Prostitution(nice house, car, money)
3. It doesn't happen here

- Reality

1. The percentage of people who engage in this willingly is very small
2. Girls don't always get the money
3. Violence

# Survival Sex

- Many street involved youth engage in survival sex for food, shelter or other basic needs.
- When meeting with clients it is important to understand this is a reality for them.
- Many are ashamed to talk about it. If they do, just listen.
- Reality: It's hard for a youth to feel like there are other options when there are no beds at shelters and they have nothing to eat.

# Statistics

- 1 in 3 runaway children are lured into prostitution within 48 hours of running away
- The average age of entry into prostitution is 12-14
- 244,000 American children are estimated to be at risk of child sexual exploitation
- 1.2 million children are trafficked each year globally
- 800,000 people are trafficked across international borders each year

# Outreach Tools

- Billboard Campaign
- Social Media
- Youth Engagement
- Bracelets with number to service providers information
- Avoid passing out flyers because the traffickers may find the information and cause harm to the victim if they think the victim is trying to leave

# Victim of Trafficking or Not?

- Jessica – 16 years old girl who has been stripping for a few months. Gives half of her money to her manager. Occasionally she sleeps with guys if she is short.
- Tom- Tom's mom is struggling to make the rent this month. Her landlord says if she allows her son to come down and have sex with her the rent will be forgiven

# Victim or Not? (con.'t)

- Brittany-17 year old who hangs outside of a local gas station with friends. One day, Brittany's friend told her that she could make money by having sex with some of the truckers. She agrees. Ashley says she only does it once and a while when she needs school supplies.
- Peter- works on a farm for 18 hours a day. Doesn't receive a paycheck only room and board. Boss keeps telling him he's not working hard enough and if he works harder he would get more.

# Needs Assessment

- Breakout into 6 groups
- Needs assessment needs to cover the needs listed below in a youth centered manner that will not alienate them
  1. Food
  2. Shelter
  3. Safety
  4. Figuring out if they are victims of trafficking or not
  5. Medical Needs

# Needs Assessment (con.'t)

- Groups have 20 minutes to complete task.
- Each group will have 5 minutes to present what they came up with.
- I will type up all of the assessments and send them to the program coordinator who will then send them to all groups.

# Homework for Participants

- Develop a quick resource guide that contains the following information
  1. Food pantries
  2. Youth shelters
  3. Drop-in services
  4. Medical services
  5. Trafficking Services