



# A Village for One

ChildSexTrafficking.org  
AVillageforOne.org

## Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children (CSEC) Fact Sheet

### What is CSEC?

**Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children (CSEC)** A person, usually an adult, achieves sexual gratification, financial gain or advancement through the abuse or exploitation of a child's sexuality by revoking that child's human right to dignity, equality, autonomy, and physical and mental well being, i.e. trafficking, stripping, pornography, and rape. <sup>(1)</sup>

**Sex trafficking:** "the recruitment, harboring, transportation, provision, or obtaining of a person for the purpose of a commercial sex act where such an act is induced by force, fraud, or years of age." <sup>(2)</sup>

**Commercial sex act:** the giving or receiving of anything of value (drugs, money, shelter, food, clothing) <sup>(2)</sup>

**Survival sex:** minors exchanging sexual acts for survival needs (i.e. housing, food, clothing).

- This is an example of exploitation through the imbalance of power. <sup>(3)</sup>

**30%** of youth in shelters and  
**70%** of youth living on the streets  
are victims of commercial sexual exploitation

### Risk Factors

- *Age:* Average age of entry is 12-14 years of age
- *History of Abuse:* Physical, Sexual, Emotional, and Neglect
- *Parental Drug Use/Abuse*
- *Running Away*
- *History of Involvement With Child Protective Services (CPS)*
- *History of Older Boyfriends/Girlfriends*

### PORTLAND OREGON

Department of Human Services (DHS) and Sexual Assault Resource Center (SARC). Many victims are unidentified and unaccounted for. The following are low estimates. <sup>(7)</sup>

- Within the last 4 years **469** victims have been identified **in Portland** by DHS and SARC, **over 100 per year**
- Currently **159 open cases** within DHS and SARC **in Portland**.
  - Average Age: **15.5** years old
  - Youngest victim: only **8** years old
  - Oldest victim: **22** years old

Many victims have been identified by DHS case managers as likely to benefit from a 6-18 month stay in a residential treatment facility, **if one were to exist**. Such a solution would aim to offer these children rehabilitation and re-integration services in the least-restrictive setting for the recovery process. <sup>(7)</sup>

In 2012, Oregon received a "D" when graded on whether they bring justice to domestic victims of sex trafficking relaying that perpetrators are relatively safe against prosecution in our state.

### Exploited?: Warning Signs

- Older Boyfriends/Girlfriends Identified by Street Names
- Drug Use/Addiction
- Gang Involvement
- Repeated Running Away
- Tattoos (aka Branding)
- Multiple Pregnancies
- Repeated and/or Multiple STDs
- Signs of Physical, Sexual, and/or Emotional Abuse
- Traveling with Adults Who Are Not Their Guardian
- History of "Masking Charges" (ex. drug charges, curfew violations, other status offenses)
- Access to Material Objects the Child Could Not Afford (ex. designer clothes, nails, cell phone)
- Secrecy-about where they are going/who they are with
- Signs of Anxiety, Depression, PTSD, and/or Other Mental Health Challenges

Posttraumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD); depression, reported to be experienced by 86% of domestically trafficked victims <sup>(6)</sup>

## Why Don't They Leave?

Children who are victims of sexual exploitation are frequently victims of previous abuse. In turn becoming vulnerable to predators seeking to exploit them further and ultimately experience horrific abuse during their victimization in the commercial market. Children who have experienced abuse, especially physical and sexual assaults, can experience life long challenges.

### Challenges that make it difficult to leave:

- Decreased ability to build and sustain trusting relationships
- Decreased ability to understand, put in place, and enforce personal boundaries
- Lowered self esteem, which results in them not feeling deserving of being loved and respected
- Challenges with identifying dangerous situations, and understanding how to implement personal protective action
- Difficulty developing relationships without harmful imbalances of power in place. (5)
- Trauma bonding (emotional survival bond with exploiter)
- Physical and mental health problems compounding all other challenges
- Psychological manipulation and “brainwashing”
- Substance use
- Threat or force
- Coercion
- Social stigma

The mortality rate, aka death rate, is **40 times higher** for women who are prostituted than women who do not face prostitution (4)



## The Commercial Aspect

**Quota:** Amount of money a victim is required to make in a given period of time.

If a CSEC victim is **SOLD 5 times per night 5 days a week for 5 years Raped by 6,000 buyers during their 5 year period of victimization.** (3)

Reality! Victims often report that **they are sold 10 to 15 times per night**, and there have been reports of victims facing up to **45 customers in a night.**

Supply and Demand: A victim's quota typically increases when the demand is high (more buyers), and the supply is then increased (more victims/increased quota) to increase the profit made by the trafficker. Demand increases during large sporting events or conventions. (3)

### **Commercial Businesses that are involved in CSEC include:**

- \* Lingerie Modeling Venues
- \* Escort Services
- \* Outcall Services
- \* Strip/Dance Clubs
- \* Sex Shops
- \* Massage Parlors
- \* All Forms of Pornography
- \* Street Based Prostitution

### **What Can I Do?**

**Stop the Demand:** CSEC is based on the basic business model of supply and demand. If there is not a demand there will be no need for the service.

**Raise Awareness:** Everyone in the community is affected by this horrific crime, some more directly than others. Educate yourself, and assist in educating those around you. Speak out!

**Volunteer:** A united community is a powerful community.

**Donate:** Supplies, skills, and financial contributions are always needed.

(1) Hughes, Donna M. and Claire M. Roche (Editors). 1999. Making the Harm Visible: Global Sexual Exploitation of Women and Girls-Speaking Out and Providing Services (Kingston RI: The Coalition Against Trafficking in Women)

(2a) Trafficking Victims Protection Act (TVPA) of 2000, Pub. L. No. 106-386, Division A, 103 (8), 114 Stat. 1464 (signed into law on October 29, 2000); codified as amended at 22 USC 7102 103(8). [http://frwebgate.access.gpo.gov/cgi-bin/getdoc.cgi?dbname=106\\_cong\\_public\\_laws&docid=f:publ386.106](http://frwebgate.access.gpo.gov/cgi-bin/getdoc.cgi?dbname=106_cong_public_laws&docid=f:publ386.106). Accessed October 30, 2012.

(2b) TVPA, 22 USC 7101 103(3)

(3) National Report on Domestic Minor Sex Trafficking: America's Prostituted Children. Washington D.C.: Shared Hope International, 2009.

(4) Stark, C. & Hodgson, C. (2003). Sister oppressions: a comparison of wife battering and prostitution. M. Farley (Ed.), *Prostitution, trafficking, and traumatic stress* (pp. 17-32). Bringhamton, NY: The Hawthorn Maltreatment & Traumatic Press.

(5) Kendall, C. & Funk, R. (2003). Gay male pornography's "actors": when "fantasy" isn't. M. Farley (Ed.), *Prostitution, trafficking, and traumatic stress* (pp. 93-114). Bringhamton, NY: The Hawthorn Maltreatment & Traumatic Press.

(6) Farley, M., Cotton, A., Lynne, J., Zumbeck, S., Spiwak, F., Reyes, M. E., Alvarez, D., & Sezgin, U. (2003). Prostitution and trafficking in nine countries: an update on violence and posttraumatic stress disorder. M. Farley (Ed.), *Prostitution, trafficking, and traumatic stress* (pp. 33-74). Bringhamton, NY: The Hawthorn Maltreatment & Traumatic Press.

(7) Carey, Christopher and Teplitsky, L. Memorandum August 5, 2013. Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children (CSEC) in the Portland Metro Area. Portland State University, Portland, OR.