Human Trafficking: Exploiting our Youth

Teresa Davidson, ARNP, MSN, MA

OBJECTIVES

• Provide a brief overview of human trafficking
• Present issues that make teens vulnerable to human trafficking
• Specify things teens participate in that directly lead to human trafficking
• Outline ways traffickers are currently infiltrating our schools
• Identify interventions school nurses can do to identify or prevent human trafficking in our youth
• Describe a case in which school personnel were able to make a big difference
• Introduce Braking Traffik's new curriculum for schools
• Provide an update on SF2258

Human Trafficking

is defined as the...

Act of

• Recruiting
• Housing
• Transporting
• Providing
• Obtaining

by

• Force
• Fraud
• Coercion

Means of

• Exploitation
• Involuntary servitude
• Prostitution
• Debt bondage
• Slavery

for the

Purpose of

Any commercial sex act involving a minor
• 20.9 million people worldwide (ILO) – 68% labor
• 25% Children
• 55% women/girls – 80% in sex trade
• 800,000: all borders
• 17,000: US border
• Up to 500,000 US citizens – 20-60% children (Office of Children and Family Services)

Surely Not in Iowa!!

• 74% of runaways who are victims of HT had been in DHS or foster care (Polaris Project)
• 2012: 10,000 homeless youth in Iowa (National Center on Family Homelessness)
• 2011: 5802 homeless in Linn County (Linn County Homeless Data Report)
  – 19% men, 31% women, 50% Children
  – 142,000 Iowans live in poverty
• 2012: 12,000 youth abused and neglected (IAAG)
• Affiliate Group member reports (CPC, ER, PD, BT)

Sex Trafficking Statistics

A pimp can make $50,000-$200,000 each year, and the average pimp has 4 to 6 girls.

Approximately 500,000 children are at risk of becoming prosecutors in the United States.
Surely Not in Small Towns!

- More and more traffickers are working in small towns, especially rural, agricultural areas
  - Traffickers like to work “underground”
  - “Unsuspecting”
  - Fewer resources (police, DHS, shelters, etc.)

619 calls since 2007
61% of those were sex trafficking in Iowa
23% of those were labor trafficking in Iowa
• 98-99% of victims are never rescued
• One in three teens on the street will be lured toward prostitution within 48 hours of leaving home (National Runaway Hotline)
• Average Life Expectancy......
**LIFE EXPECTANCY**

- Average Life Expectancy: **7 years!!**
  - Most common causes of death are homicide, suicide, drug and alcohol related problems, HIV infection and accidents.
  - They are dehumanized physically, morally and spiritually.

---

**FACT:** Human Trafficking is happening everywhere in the world, and in our own country.

---

**RECRUITING/OBTAINING TEENS**

- Kidnapped and kept locked up
- “Voluntarily” stripping, escort services, prostitution
- Romeo to Guerilla
  - Trafficked and living at home
- Family members selling them
- Recruiting out of group homes and foster care
- Fake modeling (and other) jobs
- Labor trafficking
  - Restaurants, factories, agricultural areas
Why don’t victims “Try to Escape?”

- Fear of physical abuse
- In love with trafficker
- Feelings of loyalty toward trafficker
- Distrustful of law enforcement
- No money
- Shame
- Acceptance in street subculture, but not feeling accepted at home
- Threats to show compromising photos, videos, spreading rumors, telling family

- Moved around - taken to other cities or states
• Physical
  – Physical bonds
  – Severe abuse
  – Drug/alcohol addiction
  – Pregnancy!
• Emotional
  – Threats/Violence
    • Self, friend, family, pet
  – Deception
  – Stockholm Syndrome/Trauma bond

**“Chains”**

• The mystery of loving an abuser
• August 23rd, 1973: Stockholm, Sweden
  – Machine gun wielding bank robbers
  – 4 hostages for 131 hours
  – Defended, engaged, hired defense attorney
• Emotionally bonding with an abuser
  – Strategy for survival!!

**Stockholm Syndrome**

• People seek to reduce information that makes them uncomfortable
  – Two differing/opposite thoughts, opinions, feelings are emotionally uncomfortable
• We attempt to reduce the “dissonance” (the fact that our thoughts, facts, feelings don’t agree or make sense when combined)
  – Can do this by adding new thoughts or feelings

**Cognitive Dissonance**
COGNITIVE DISSONANCE

- Your husband/boyfriend becomes abusive and assaultive. You can’t leave due to the finances, children, or other factors. Through cognitive dissonance, you begin telling yourself “He only hits me open-handed” and “He’s had a lot of stress at work.”
- The more you invest, the stronger your need to justify your situation
- The combination of “Stockholm Syndrome” and “cognitive dissonance” produces a victim who firmly believes the relationship is not only acceptable, but also desperately needed for their survival

(Love and Stockholm Syndrome: The Mystery of Loving an Abuser, Dr. Joseph Carver)

WHY SO PREVALENT

- Trafficking generates $150 billion worldwide (ILO)
- A pimp (trafficker) can make $150,000 to $200,000 per child each year and the average pimp has 4-5 girls or children
  - A victim may be forced to have sex up to 20-48 times a day (Polaris Project)
- US DOL – 136 goods from 74 countries made by forced and child labor (www.slaveryfootprint.org)
- Contributing Factors

THE FACE OF THE TRAFFICKER

“There is no one consistent face of a trafficker.”

- Individual pimps which include women.
- Small families which include mothers or businesses.
- Loose knit decentralized networks.
- International organized criminal syndicates.
**“Grooming Process”**

- Provides gifts, comfort, attention, “love”
  - Can be over a great deal of time
- Most effective weapon: “Charm”
- Breaks down every good other relationship
  - Especially online
- Presents themselves as “the only one who cares,” “the only one who provides”
- Use language such as “family” and “daddy”
  - Especially with kiddos that crave family
- Reveal true intentions only after girls/boys have left their homes

**Issues That Make Teens Vulnerable**

- Unstable or very stressful life
- Abuse: physical, emotional, sexual
- Neglect
- Homeless/runaways
- Foster care
- LGBTQIA
- Addictions
- Disabilities
- Undocumented
- Gangs
- Unhealthy relationships

**A Child’s Developing Brain**

- The vast majority of brain development takes place in childhood
  - Brain: 90% of adult size at age 3-5
- The brain is designed to change in response to patterned, repetitive stimulation
  - The brain develops capabilities suited for the “type” of environment he or she is raised in
- Studies have shown hippocampus/limbic abnormalities in abused children
- Also show alterations in the dopaminergic and noradrenergic systems
  - Attention, impulse control, sleep, fine motor control, etc

[Bruce Perry, MD, PhD: Traumatized Children, 2000]
ISSUES THAT MAKE TEENS VULNERABLE

• Unstable or very stressful life
• Abuse: physical, emotional, sexual
• Neglect
• Homeless/runaways
• Foster care
• LGBTQIA
• Addictions
• Disabilities
• Undocumented
• Gangs
• Unhealthy relationships

GROWING UP UNDER STRESS

• Immune and body’s stress response system does not develop normally
• When exposed to stress later, automatically respond as if stress is extreme
  – Trauma triggers
• More likely to engage in risky behaviors
• Emotional numbing (tune out threats)
  – Vulnerable to re-victimization
• Feel worthless, powerless, have shame, guilt, low self-esteem, poor self-image and inability to trust
  (National Child Traumatic Stress Network, 2016)
Every 10 seconds, a child abuse report is placed (Commission on Youth and Family Services: CA, 2008).

Those abused may have altered brain growth and development:
- More likely to engage in risky behaviors
- Emotional numbing (tune out threats)
  - Vulnerable to re-victimization
- Feel worthless, powerless, have shame, guilt, low self-esteem, poor self-image and inability to trust (National Child Traumatic Stress Network, 2016)

30% of abused and neglected children will go on to abuse their own children.
FACT: Human Trafficking is the fastest growing criminal industry in the world, second only to the Drug Trade.

VULNERABILITY: HX SEXUAL ABUSE

- Unequal power dynamics of adult/child relationship
- Linking of sex and abuse with “love”
  - Sometimes try to “recreate” the only thing they know
- Violation of boundaries
- Guilt and shame
- View self as sexual object
- Low self-esteem
- Run away/homeless
- Poverty and need
- Approached by trafficker

***TRAFFICKERS ARE VERY GOOD AT SENSING VULNERABILITIES AND PROMISING YOU WHAT YOU NEED
* (food, shower, money, future, flattery, “love,” drugs)

SEXUAL ABUSE

- 42% of victims of HT in Scott Co. jail (for prostitution) between Feb, 2009 and Feb, 2014 were interviewed

- 88% reported sexual abuse as child
**Vulnerability: Homeless**

- Runaways and homeless:
  - 2012: 10,000 homeless youth in Iowa
  - 2011: 5802 homeless in Linn County
    - 19% men, 31% women, 50% Children
- One in three teens on the street will be lured toward prostitution within 48 hours of leaving home (National Runaway Hotline)
- LGBTQ youth account for 40% of the homeless youth population (Administration for Children and Families, 2010)

**Foster Care Kids**

- “Children receiving child welfare and runaway homeless youth services are particularly vulnerable to becoming victims of Human Trafficking” (Rochelle Rollins, PhD, MPH, HT Health Policy Advisor, 2014)
  - LA Probation Dept Survey: 59% children arrested for “prostitution” were in the Foster system
    - Victims are often recruited from group homes
  - FBI’s Operation Cross Country Sting (2013): 60% had come from Foster system
  - Connecticut (2012): Reported 85 out of 88 victims were “child welfare involved”

**Iowa’s Foster Care**

- Iowa ranks 6th in the nation for share of children in foster care
- 2015: >2400 referrals to foster placement
- 2015: 546 children referred into foster care in CR service area
- 441 licensed foster families
  - 25% willing to care for teenagers
- All kids in foster care have experienced some kind of trauma (Iowa Kids Net, 2016)
**Foster Care Kids**

- Traffickers target those who have had an unstable life, have been abused, neglected and exploited
- Want to believe the older man – represents comfort, power, financial support, escape from an unhappy home life
- Sometimes see self as “attached to a check” in foster care system
- Sometimes abused in the foster care system

**Why Vulnerable?**

“I understood very early that I could be raped, cared for and connected to money. It was therefore, easy to go from that to a pimp. At least the pimp told me he loved me.”

(Former foster care child)

**LGBTQ Youth**

- Up to five times more likely than heterosexual youth to be victims of trafficking
  - Increased susceptibility that comes with the feelings of rejection and alienation that are often experienced
- 72% of LGBTQ youth wanted to stop engaging in survival sex, but found it as the only viable means for meeting their basic needs
  - The alternatives that would enable them to stop included job training, educational opportunities, food security, mentorship, gender-affirming health care, legal assistance, mental health care, livable-wage employment and affordable housing.

(Urban Institute Study, Surviving the Streets of New York, 2015)
Vulnerability: Addictions

- Vulnerabilities are often “needs”
  - Child abuse (love and affection), Sexual abuse (control), Homeless (food and shelter)
  - Addictions (substance of addiction)
- Traffickers often set a “quota” a victim has to reach before returning
- Hold out rewarding them with their substance of addiction until that quota is met

Vulnerability: Disabilities

- 61% of children entering the foster care system test positive for developmental delay
  - 4-10% in general population
- Disabled children are less likely to be able to defend themselves
- Phally was trafficked in Thailand. Rescued by the Rapha House, Cambodia

Vulnerability: Undocumented

- Have nowhere to turn
- Fearful of being arrested, deported, separated from family/children
- Traffickers can abuse them however they want, because they can’t turn them in
- Refugees, immigrants, non-English speaking persons
  - Don’t understand the system(s)
  - Cannot communicate
  - Cannot obtain driver’s license, education
SHAM LOVER (ROMEO TO GORILLA)

THINGS TEENS PARTICIPATE IN

- Lead to victimization:
  - Internet/social media
  - Sexting
  - Trying to earn a little cash
  - Media/pop culture

- Lead to exploitation:
  - Media/pop culture
  - Porn
  - Purchasing commercial sex

NEVER UNDERESTIMATE THE INTERNET
The FBI estimates that 50,000 child predators are online at any given time searching for a potential victim.

[Skagit County Coalition Against Trafficking, 2015]

On the Internet

REVEALING TOO MUCH

• Photos Say More Than Words
• Don't Post Your Picture Online
  • It can be copied or changed
• Don't Give Out Personal Information (name, phone number, name of school)
• Don't Share Your Password with ANYONE except PARENTS/GUARDIAN

On the Internet

PREDATORS

• Don’t meet online friends in person unless you are with an adult
• Be careful when meeting people through chat rooms and online gaming
• REMEMBER, people CAN and DO lie online!
  • Predators often pretend to be kids.
  • Predators often lie about their location.
On the Internet

**for Sexting**

- "Sexting" refers to youth sending sexually explicit messages or photos of themselves or others to their peers.
- A survey conducted for the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children found:
  - 18% of teens surveyed have engaged in sexting.
  - 60% of teens sent the sext to a boyfriend or girlfriend.
  - 11% of teens sent it to someone they don't know.

**>30% in Local HS Survey**

- Sending and forwarding sexual pictures of someone underage (including yourself) is a felony in many states. You could go to jail and have to register as a sex offender.
- **THINK** before you hit "send"! Once that photo is sent, you could face humiliation, get kicked off sports teams, lose a job, miss out on educational opportunities and risk having your photo reposted on other sites.

**Sexting - Consequences**

- Sexting - Consequences

- Sexting - Consequences

- Sexting - Consequences

- Sexting - Consequences

- Sexting - Consequences

- Sexting - Consequences

- Sexting - Consequences
• By the time a child has reached puberty, he/she has been exposed to thousands of sexualized messages (awash in male dominant and female submissive imagery).
• Sexuality becomes much more of a player than it should.
• Mimic what they have been exposed to.
• Seeing bullies incorporate sexual behavior into their bullying behavior.
• Children are demonstrating sexual interest and behavior earlier and earlier (5 year olds!)

(The Supersexualization of Children: Time to take Notice, Dr. Fred Kasen, 2011)

• Lead to victimization:
  – Internet/social media
  – Sexting
  – Trying to earn a little cash
  – Media

• Lead to exploitation:
  – Media/pop culture
  – Porn
  – Purchasing commercial sex
Ending Demand

Does Pop Culture Contribute to Demand?

- Degradation of women and girls in song lyrics, online gaming and TV.
- Pimping made to look "cool".
- Examples

Ending Demand

"Blurred Lines" by Robin Thicke was the #1 selling single of 2013

Lyrics:
Nothing like your last guy, he too square for you
He don't smack (you) and pull your hair like that
So I call watch, hand wave for you to salute
But you didn't pick
Not many women can refuse this pimpin'
I'm a nice guy but don't get it confused.

Ending Demand

"Pour It Up" by Rihanna

Lyrics:
Strip clubs and dollar bills
I still got my money
Strippers going up and down that pole
And I still got my money
Bandz make your girl go down
And I still got my money.
• Internet pornography use has created an insatiable demand for more and more images and videos.
  — "If prostitution is the main act, porn is the dress rehearsal!" V. Malarek

• Looking at pornography is NOT a victimless crime.
  — Many of the images on the internet are women and children being forced to participate in violent and twisted sexual acts.

• Our participation is fueling the exploitation of women and children.
  — 70% of men aged 18-34 visit a porn website regularly
  — Every second, almost 30,000 people view pornography
  — 50% of pastors view pornography regularly
  — Every minute, $200,000 is spent on pornography

(Ana Sutler, 2011. The Connections Between Pornography and Sex Trafficking)

— 10% of all pornographic images are of infants and toddlers, 76% are of pre-pubescent children.

(National Center for Missing and Exploited Children, 2016)

• Disruption of Dopamine
  — Excitatory neurotransmitter: tells brain to "go!"
  — Also regulates pleasure/reward pathways
  — When these pathways are used compulsively (overuse), dopamine amounts decrease and dopamine cells shrink: "resets the pleasure thermostat"
  — Reward cells now crave dopamine
  — Person must boost dopamine levels higher just to feel normal
  — As this continues, stronger and stronger stimuli are needed to boost the dopamine

(How Pornography and Drugs Change the Brain, Donald Hilton, 2010)
• Society continues to normalize sexualization of our children
  – Beauty pageants
  – Clothing Stores
  – Ads
  – Women as objects
  – Male dominance

• Can cause children to believe their self-worth is in their looks
• Sexualize very young girls
• Over the past 10 years, there has been a 270% increase in girls hospitalized with eating disorders
• 50% of pageant girls had later issues with self-esteem

[How do Child Beauty Pageants Affect a Child’s Development? Kelly Krammerer, 2013]
Ending Demand

Women as objects
Ending Demand

Young Girls Sexualized

Male Dominance

DOES IT MATTER

How does pop culture shape the way society views women and girls?

How does it affect the way they are treated?
Ending Demand

The more we see degrading images of women and girls, the more we hear violent lyrics, the more used to it we become... It becomes “normal.” When you purchase/download music, videos or games with these images/lyrics, you send the message to the entertainment industry that this is what you want. YOU become the demand!

You have the power to change this, beginning with YOURSELF!

What Can You Do to End Demand?

- Respect those around you
- Be deliberate about kindness
- Refuse to buy songs with degrading lyrics
- Refuse to buy games with violence against women and children
- Take a stance against strip clubs, prostitution and pornography

• SCREENING TOOL FOR EDUCATORS
  - NATIONAL HUMAN TRAFFICKING RESOURCE CENTER
Specific Physical Indicators

- Contusions/Burns/Bruises
  - Physical restraint
- Untreated serious or chronic illnesses
  - Diabetes, heart disease
- Poor dental health
- Malnourishment
- Evidence of sexual assault
  - Stuffing in cervix
- Untreated STD's
- Tattoos or branding
  - Barcodes
EMOTIONAL/OTHER INDICATORS

- Inability to speak for him/herself
- Disoriented about past/inconsistencies in story
- Uses slang such as “daddy,” “wife,” or “family”
- Has difficulty making decisions
- Not in possession of passport or other identification
- Difficulty in managing his/her own money
- Hotel keys, False ID, no ID, cell phone
- Fearful, anxious, depressed, submissive, tense
  — Overly fearful of police involvement

LOOK BEHIND THE SURFACE

MYTHS

1. Trafficked Victims are mostly foreigners
TRUTHS

- Between 100,000 and 500,000 of our own US children are at risk of being trafficked each year (US Dept of Justice)
- In California, 72% of trafficking victims identified are from the US (CASRE)

MYTHS

2. Trafficking is the same as smuggling

TRUTHS

- The federal definition of trafficking does NOT include transportation of victims across state or national lines
3. It’s only girls who are trafficked

4. Traffickers are simply bad, evil people

**MYTHS**

- Around 20% of all trafficking reports made to the National Human Trafficking Hotline number, are for males
- Researchers at John Jay College in NY found 50% of minors involved in commercial sex trade in NY City were male
- Young male sex workers are often LGBT youths that have been thrown out of their homes (ECPAT-USA, 2013)

**TRUTHS**

- Traffickers are simply bad, evil people
TRUTHS

- 88% of former pimps were victims of child abuse
- 76% were sexually assaulted
- Nearly half had run away at some point
  (DePaul University research, 2014)

MYTHS

5. Buyers of commercial sex with minors are prosecuted to the full extent of the law

TRUTHS

- Federal law states anyone under age of 18 is a victim of trafficking
- Local laws vary widely: many under age girls and boys are arrested for “child prostitution”
- Buyers are often not arrested at all
- Those who are, get very lenient sentencing, not published in paper
- “Boys will be boys”, stings always include white-collar workers
Dr. Joshua Wade Payer

- Tea, SD
- Arrested 8/5/2010
  - While working in an ER in Spencer, Iowa
  - Worked with Brandon Thompson and Megan Hayes (HT ringleaders)
- Charges:
  - Sex trafficking
  - Distribution of controlled substances
  - Sentenced to 22 months in prison

MYTHS

6. Trafficking victims must be kidnapped and/or restrained physically

TRUTHS

- Victims may be threatened or manipulated into compliance (emotional chains) – they do not have to be held in “physical chains”
MANDATORY REPORTER

- Mandatory Reporter for child and dependent adult abuse
  - Child: any person under the age of 18 years
  - Dependent adult: any person 18 years or older and are incapable of adequate self-care.
- Iowa Code 232.73 - immunity from liability with good faith
- Categories of abuse
  - Physical abuse
  - Mental injury
  - Sexual abuse
  - Denial of critical care
  - Child prostitution
- Caretaker: NOW EXPANDED from caretaker to include any person who resides in a home with the child (SF2258) 7-1-16

STRATEGIES TO PREVENT

- Give the child what he/she craves the most: CARE AND AFFECTION
- Educate them on human trafficking
- Encourage them to address their vulnerabilities
- Monitor them - where they are, internet use
- Become approachable on all matters (sexual)

- Look Beneath the Surface!!
- Ask “ARE YOU SAFE?”
INTERVENTION STRATEGIES

• Call Police and DHS
• National Human Trafficking Hotline:
  1-888-373-7888
• Text “Be Free”
• Iowa’s Hotline:
  1-800-770-1650
• Teresa: (319)536-2027
• Teresa: Chainsinterrupted@mail.com

THE BRAD FOX STORY

“COLLABORATIVE, COMMUNITY CARETAKING RESPONSE”

• Chains Interrupted
• Affiliate Group/Coalition
  – 73 leaders in Cedar Rapids meeting quarterly
  – Developed a beginning response plan
  – Rescue teams to advocacy to housing to restoration
  – Large conference on November 17th at New Covenant in Cedar Rapids
“CHAINS INTERRUPTED”

- Prevention
  - Educate public and special interest groups
  - Mentor vulnerable youth
- “Stop the Demand” project
  - Pornography, punish the buyer, accountability
- Restoration House
- Rescue Unit
- Mission Work
  - Chicago, India, Nepal, Burma, Guatemala
  - www.chainsinterrupted.com

If you SEE something, SAY something.

National Human Trafficking Hotline
1-888-373-7888
Or Text
“Be Free”=233733
Or call Teresa at (319)-536-2027