PreventionFIRST! 2020 Coalition Academy

### The Relationship Between Vulnerable Populations & Sex Trafficking

#### **Devin Robinson, RN** Shared Hope Ambassador



### PreventionFIRST! 2020 Coalition Academy

### Housekeeping Notes:

- Continuing education will only be awarded for those who view the live session
- You must attend the entire training to receive continuing education hours
- Post event evaluation surveys are required to receive continuing education
- For Social Work/Mental Health Counselor credits you must provide your license number in the post event evaluation survey
- For CHES credits, you must provide your CHES ID in the post event evaluation survey
- You will receive your certificate for continuing education by email within **30 days** of this training.



The Relationship Between Vulnerable Populations and Sex Trafficking

Presented by Devin Robinson, MSN, BC-RN SANE

### **Objectives**

- Identify strategies used by criminal traffickers to attract youth
- Assess the public health and societal costs of sex and human trafficking
- Learn which resources are available to aid individuals impacted by human trafficking and how to integrate these resources into your work

### **Important Points**

#### Two types of Human Trafficking

- Sex trafficking
- Labor trafficking

#### Victims

- Vulnerable individuals
- Girls, boys, women, men, LBGTQ
- Every race, ethnicity and socioeconomic background
- Every state, including the Tri-state area
- Traffickers/Pimps
  - Men and women
  - Different professions or socioeconomic groups

### What is Sex Trafficking?

Sex trafficking occurs when...

A person is made to perform a commercial sex act\* through the use of force, fraud or coercion.

OR pr

A person performing a commercial sex act is under 18.

\*A commercial sex act is a sex act exchanged for <u>anything of value</u> including food, shelter, drugs or money.

### What is Sex Trafficking?

- Business of stealing a person's freedom for profit
- Real and growing problem in the world, including the US
- Highly profitable criminal enterprise
- Use of technology enhances the business opportunities
- Take advantage of vulnerabilities

### **Types of Traffickers**

- Guerilla Pimps
  - Use of violence
- Romeo Trafficker
  - Most common type
- Gang Trafficker
  - Gang becomes family
- Familiar
  - Hard to identify
- Butter Pimp
  - Trade sex for necessities, especially drugs

### **The Traffickers**

- Traffickers are Master Manipulators
  - Invest time in forming bonds
  - Provide affection
  - Promise of a better life
  - Offer a place to stay
  - Buy gifts
  - Supply alcohol and/or drugs

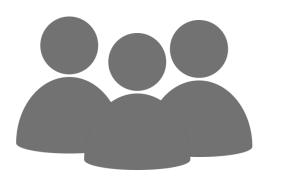
## **Quick Facts**

### Thousands

Thousands of minors in America are victimized in the commercial sex industry every year

12-17

Any age can be exploited, but commonly recruited ages range from 12-17 years



Traffickers prey on vulnerable youth:

- Hurting, abused, or bullied
- Runaway and homeless
- Lonely or disconnected
- Wanting someone to look out for them



### **Misidentification of Victims**

- Most minor victims don't want to tell anyone
- They are often mislabeled
- Common misconceptions:
  - Prostitute, slut, promiscuous
  - They have to be a gang member or a juvenile delinquent
  - They will be a runaway

Mislabeled

- Victims are always female
- This only happens in other countries
- The teen puts themselves in a dangerous situation

In order to understand the issue, we have to understand the victims.

They could be anybody's brother, sister, cousin, friend, classmate, or neighbor. "It's impossible to protect all girls from guys like I was, because that's what we do. We eat, drink, and sleep, thinking of ways to trick young girls into doing what we want them to do."

~ Ex-Pimp

### **CHOSEN**

"It's impossible to protect all girls from guys like I was, because that's what we do. We eat, drink, and sleep, thinking of ways to trick young girls into doing what we want them to do."

~ Ex-Pimp

### **Recruitment & Grooming**

- 1. Changes in Behavior
  - Absences from home/school, dress, attitude, signs of abuse
- 2. Changes in peers
  - New boyfriend, new friends, parties, drugs/alcohol, signs of gang affiliation
- 3. Changes in Lifestyle
  - Money, material possessions, tattoos



### Branding









### **Community Safety**

- Peer to Peer Rescue = Evan
- Community Awareness= Evan's dad
- Professional Involvement = Sgt. Chapman, Trained Experts, Organizations like Shared Hope

### We need everyone involved in keeping kids safe! Especially you!

### **Get Involved**

- We can all do something!
- Students age 16 and older may apply to become trained volunteer Ambassadors of Hope at <u>www.sharedhope.org/aoh</u>
- Start an anti-trafficking group at your school. Contact our National Outreach Manager for materials to help you educate your friends.
  <u>awareness@sharedhope.org</u>

### **Chosen Demonstrates**

- Spotter identifies a prospect
- Recruiter gleans information from the victim
- Trafficker Or pimp, sells the product to another pimp or to buyers
  - A trafficker can <u>masquerade</u> as a boyfriend or a friend, who has your best interests at heart

### **Social Media**



### **Protecting Yourself Online**

- DO NOT respond to strangers communication efforts
- Save messages and photos that are from strangers or are threatening or sexual in nature
- Go to a trusted adult
- Watch out for your friends and talk to them if you see something that seems suspicious
- Don't keep secrets

### **Local Examples**

- Timothy Nolan
  - Campbell Co., Kentucky
- Portsmouth
  - Scioto Co., Ohio
- Carolinas
  - Sex slave for 5 years, HT Hotline was helpful
- Texas
  - Kidnapped by "boyfriend's dad"
- Student
  - Internship in Texas
- Conference Participant
  - Niece, Kroger, mall, Spring Break

### What Can You Do?

#### Prevention

- Get educated
- Get the word out to everyone

#### Awareness

- The issue is here, in our backyard
- Spread the word
- Can happen to anyone
- Recognition
  - What we can do if we suspect

### **Human Trafficking Hotline**

- 1 (888) 373-7888
- SMS: 233733 (Text "HELP" or "INFO")
- Hours: 24 hours, 7 days a week
- Languages: English, Spanish and 200 more languages
- Website: <u>humantraffickinghotline.org</u>

### **Additional Resources**

- Local
  - End Slavery Cincinnati
  - Woman of Alabaster
  - Catholic Charities
  - State Attorney General's Office (Ohio and Kentucky)
  - Women Helping Women
- National
  - National Human Trafficking Hotline
  - Polaris Project
  - National Center for Missing and Exploited Children
  - Department of State

### **If You Suspect Trafficking**

Report it to the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children: 1-800-THE-LOST (1-800-843-5678) www.cybertipline.org

#### **Bookmark it in your phone right now**

You don't have to know everything, just tell us what you do know.



### **THE POWER OF SMALL THINGS**

 We cannot do great things on this Earth, only small things with great love." – Mother Theresa

 "We can talk about making a difference or we can make a difference." – Anonymous

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# Questions?



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### Post Training Info:

- Please complete the evaluation survey in the post event email.
- The recording and supplemental materials will be available on the PreventionFIRST! website under **TrainingHUB**.
- STAY CONNECTED:



prevention-first.org

