Online Predators & Human Trafficking

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Objectives

- Formulate a plan to discuss the threat of trafficking with your children.
- List some of the common sites and apps used to lure children into trafficking.
- Recognize that all children are at risk for becoming victims.
- Differentiate between trafficking and smuggling.
Ripped from the Headlines!

- Dallas Man Sentenced For Sex Trafficking Developmentally Disabled Teenage Girl
  - January 11, 2016
- DPD: 2 Men Arrested For Sex Assault & Human Trafficking Of 16-Year-Old
  - November 16, 2015
- Dallas Man Sentenced For Sex Trafficking
  - October 22, 2015
- Police: Arlington man paid Keller teens hundreds for sex
  - February 11, 2016
Arlington man paid Keller teens hundreds for sex
Star Telegram 2/11/2016

Details from the article
- Met via website
- Provided them with alcohol and marijuana
- 4 girls, 14-16yrs
- Going “just to hang out”
- She “finally gave in”
- Bought her food, gave her $350
- Kept texting her, and she met him again
- Brought two friends to meet him again

Common trafficking patterns
- Internet commonly used
- Drugs used for control of victims
- Teen age of entry of age
- Fraud
- Coercion
- Sex Trafficking
- Frequent means of communication
- Peer serves as recruiter
What is Human trafficking?

- A commercial sex act is induced by force, fraud or coercion and the person induced to perform such act is under the age of 18
Commercial Sex Act

- Any act where anything of value is given or received by any person

- Value
  - Money
  - Food
  - Drugs
  - Shelter
  - Car ride
Trafficking vs Smuggling

**Trafficking**

**Sex Trafficking:** Commercial sex act induced by force, fraud or coercion, or in which person performing the act is under age 18.

- Victims can be found working in massage parlors, brothels, strip clubs, escort services

**Labor Trafficking:** Using force, fraud or coercion to recruit, harbor, transport, obtain or employ a person for labor or services in involuntary servitude, peonage, debt bondage or slavery

- Victims can be found in domestic situations as nannies or maids, sweatshop factories, janitorial jobs, construction sites, farm work, restaurants

**Smuggling**

- The importation of people into the United States involving deliberate evasion of immigration laws. This offense includes bringing illegal aliens into the country, as well as the unlawful transportation and harboring of aliens already in the United States.
Trafficking of minors

- The most underreported form of child abuse.

83% of sex trafficking victims identified between 2008-2010 were US citizens

Bureau of Justice Statistics of Department of Justice
Scope of the problem

- 32 Billion dollar a year business globally*
  - More profits than Starbuck’s, Nike and Google combined
  - Second largest and fastest growing criminal activity
  - Second only to drug trafficking, but looking to outpace that due to the “re-usable” nature of human beings

*Feingold D. Human Trafficking. *Foreign Policy*. 2005; 150;26-30
Texas stats

- 20% human trafficking victims travel through Texas on I-10 corridor (Office of the Attorney Gen., The Texas Response to Human trafficking: Report to the 81st Legislature 10 (2008))

- 14% of all calls received by National human Trafficking resource center are from Texas (National Human Trafficking Resource Center, Hotline Statistics 2012)

- Over a 30 day period, 740 girls under 18 marketed for commercial sex (The Schapiro Grp., Adolescent Girls in the Texas Sex Trade: Tracking Study Results for November, 2010)

- On any given weekend in Texas, 188 girls are exploited through internet and escort services (The Schapiro Grp., Adolescent Girls in the Texas Sex Trade: Tracking Study Results for November, 2010)
Trafficking Victims Protection Act

- TVPA passed in 2000 by Congress
- To be convicted of trafficking in persons (TIP), one must show that one of the following elements is used in the course of the exploitation:
  - Force
  - Fraud
  - Coercion
Texas Law

- Human trafficking: “transport, entice, harbor, provide, or otherwise obtain another person by any means.” Also described as “forced labor or services.”

- However it still requires proof of force, fraud or coercion.
  - Texas Penal Code. Chapter 20A.01
Social-Ecologic Model

- Individual
  - CPS/Foster Care
  - Poverty/Homelessness
  - Gang membership
  - Learning disability
  - Runaway
  - Substance abuse

- Community
  - Lives near transient male population (airport, base, truck stop, convention center, oil rigs)
  - Community poverty
  - Adult prostitution
  - Criminalization of victim
  - Tolerance of child-adult sexual relationships

- Society
  - Sexualization of children
  - Glorification of pimp culture
Miley Cyrus
Performing at the Teen Choice Awards
Pole Dance Doll
Marketed to toddlers
Toddlers and Tiaras

Little girl as Julia Roberts’ character in the movie “Pretty Woman”
Barbie Basics

Supposedly marketed to the adult collector, but sold with other Barbies in full view of children
Bright Young Things Line from Victoria’s Secret
MTV Show

Pimping something out implies making it flashy, over the top, fancy, gaudy.
Teens’ Main Means of Communication
Apps and websites

- Snapchat
- Instagram
- Tinder
- Periscope
- Facebook
- Kik
- Tumblr
- Yik Yak
- Seeking Arrangement
- Meet Me
- Whisper
- Omegle
- Skout
- Minecraft
- Down
- Poof
- Hot or Not
- Meow Chat
- Grindr
- Backpage
Just google the apps and sites

Omegle: Talk to strangers!

The Internet is full of cool people; Omegle lets you meet them. When you use Omegle, we pick someone else at random so you can have a one-on-one chat.

Police: Man used phone app 'Whisper' to solicit teen
Internet Resources

Fri. Aug. 31

**SEXIES** (THE) ☆☆☆☆☆ (BLONDE) ☆☆☆☆☆ (YOU)☆☆☆☆☆ (WANT)☆☆☆☆☆ OUT SPECIALS - 22 (OUTCALL SPECIALS DFW)

Thu. Aug. 30

((krELly))) yvUNq PETITE FREAKy bLONDE! ☆ #1 (NEWBIE)!☆ FIND OUT WHY IM THE bEST! - 21 (305 WEST My Cozy INcAll Or yvUNq PLACE!)

ThE oNe AnD oNY 2 oGrGuS ☆ GIRIZ ToP 1st ☆ PICk.100% ReAI PICs.. - 20 (fr ith)

Tue. Aug. 28

Sat. Sep. 1

收受者 [FLawL6sS] • ☆ • [S6DuCTivE] • ☆ • [UNFoRGETTaBLE] • ☆ - 22 (Fort Worth And Surrounding)

PERFECT HOTTIE INCREDIBLE BODY CALL M3 NOW! 120HR - 18 (ARLINGTON/UELESS)

@@@ beat the summer heat with Lola! hot sexy latina! well reviewed and ready to play!! - 23 (fort worth Dallas mid)
Who are the Pimps?

- Masters at manipulation
  - Seduce with promises of a better life
  - Compliments, attention, gifts, “love”
  - Modeling, music videos, dancing
  - Mind control
  - Cycle of abuse/affection
  - Frequent moves to avoid establishing relationships

- Family members
- Friends (Recruiters 47% of the time)
  
  Curtis et al., 2008 *The commercial sexual exploitation of children in New York City*

- Significant Others
- Strangers
Who are the victims?

**Characteristics**
- Teenage girls and boys
- LGBT youth
- Chronic Runaway/Throwaway
- Truancy
- Drug use
- Traumatic Family attachments
- Poverty
- Previous CPS involvement/Foster Care

**History**
- 85% Single parent home*
- 56% Incarcerated*
- Sexual Abuse

Where are they found?

- Bus or train station
- Mall
- Gas station/truck stops
- Amusement parks/ Tourist attractions
- School hangouts
- Facebook and other social media sites
- Youth shelters
Unifying Characteristic

- Low self esteem

- (Lori Leitch & Melissa Snow, Shared Hope Int’l, *Intervene: Identifying and Responding to America’s prostituted Youth (2010)*)
In her own words

- "I just wanted to be accepted and loved. I was told how beautiful I was and if you do this I'll get you this ... and I'll make you my girlfriend." Before she knew it she was prostituting herself up to 50 times a night, the money going to her pimp or to feed the drug habit she developed, she says, to "numb the pain" of her life.
  - Tamara, DMST survivor
How many children are at risk?

- Given the illicit nature of this enterprise, the numbers are estimates.
- Vast majority of victims are runaways
  - Fleeing abuse in their homes
- Some are kidnapped or forced by threat into sexual exploitation
- Some have none of the typical risk factors, but get drawn in for various reasons.
Common Characteristics of DMST Victims

- Barcode or ownership tattoos
- Chronic school absences
- Fearful, eye contact avoidance
- Older controlling boyfriend or woman
- Motel room keys
- Burns, bruises, scars and other signs of abuse
- Uses words common to prostitution
- **Runaway history**
- Older boyfriend
- Large amounts of cash
- False or changing demographic information
- False IDs, lying about age
- Frequent ER visits for STIs
- Cell phones not paid for by parents
- Reluctant to explain injuries
- Drug use
- Travel to various cities
- High number of sex partners for age
- Previous pregnancies/abortions
Typical Tattoos
So what can I do to help prevent trafficking in my community and household?

- If you see something, you say something.
- You are a parent, not your child’s friend.
- Establish structure and boundaries.
- Monitor cell phone and internet usage.
- Know your child’s friends.
- Be involved in your child’s life.
- Maintain a no secret household.
- A parent’s love is unconditional.
Contact info

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