



Research Resources

Child Sex Trafficking Team
Office of the Texas Governor



Child Sex Trafficking Team

The Texas Legislature authorized the creation of the Child Sex Trafficking Team (CSTT) in the Governor's Office to provide a collaborative and comprehensive response to child sexual exploitation in Texas. Texas Government Code §§ 772.0062 – 772.0063. CSTT's vision is a state where children and youth are free from sexual exploitation. Our mission is to build sustainable capacity, enhance expertise, promote policies, and create new and leverage existing collaborations to prevent child sexual exploitation, to help survivors heal and thrive, and to bring exploiters to justice.



In order to enhance expertise in our state and to meet our legislative charge to collect, analyze and distribute relevant research to agencies and nonprofit organizations, CSTT gathers existing and funds new relevant research on child sex trafficking, funds evaluations of emerging and innovative child sex trafficking programs, provides training on research and evaluation findings, and provides this document, *Research Resources*, on our website, gov.texas.gov/cstt. *Research Resources* is a curated list of relevant research articles, complete with summaries by CSTT, from the last three to five years. The articles are primarily from peer-reviewed journals and are organized by CSTT's five overarching goals: protect, recognize, rescue, restore, and bring justice. (Some articles overlap

more than one of the five areas but appear in only one section.)

CSTT will continuously update and improve this collection of research by gathering, curating, summarizing and providing the latest research in updated versions of *Research Resources*. Enhancing expertise in our state will empower Texas to implement research-based programs and practices that prevent child sexual exploitation, help survivors heal and thrive, and bring exploiters to justice.

Our mission is to build sustainable capacity, enhance expertise, promote policies, and create new and leverage existing collaborations to:

- [Protect](#) children by building their awareness of and resilience to child exploitation and by curbing demand for child sex trafficking.
- [Recognize](#) child sexual exploitation in all its forms by raising public awareness and implementing screening tools for victims.
- [Recover](#) victims with protective and empowering – not punitive – collaborative and coordinated responses spanning multiple systems.
- [Support Healing](#) survivors through trauma-informed and responsive services and supports they need to heal and thrive.

[Bring Justice](#) for survivors by holding traffickers, buyers, and those who profit from trafficking accountable.



Protect

[Does a Close Relationship With an Adult Reduce the Risk of Juvenile Offending for Youth With a History of Maltreatment?](#)

Baetz, C. L., & Widom, C. S. (2020). Does a Close Relationship With an Adult Reduce the Risk of Juvenile Offending for Youth With a History of Maltreatment? *Child Maltreatment*, 25(3), 308-317. [doi:10.1177/1077559519883010](https://doi.org/10.1177/1077559519883010)

Baetz, Carley L.; Widom, Cathy S.

Publication Year: 2020

Summary: This longitudinal study of over a thousand children examined whether a close relationship with an adult decreased the risk of a child with a history of maltreatment to offend. The study “findings point to the complexity of development and suggest that although a close relationship with an adult can be protective, the mere presence of such a relationship, without inquiry into the type of relationship, is not sufficient.” Specific areas to be assessed in those relationships include emotional support, informational support, and esteem/appraisal support. Close parental relationships were identified as the most important factor for lowering the risk for delinquent behaviors. The implications of the study’s findings and the challenges to youth in the welfare system are discussed.

Abstract: Social support is frequently cited as a protective factor against juvenile offending. The current study examined whether a close relationship with an adult in childhood decreases the risk for offending among individuals with a history of child maltreatment. This research utilized data from a prospective cohort design study in which children with court-substantiated cases of abuse and neglect and non-maltreated children matched on age, sex, race, and approximate family social class were followed into adulthood (N = 1,196). Having a close relationship with an adult did not decrease risk for delinquent behavior or arrest, but a close relationship with a parent was associated with lower risk for delinquent behavior. Surprisingly, adults with no history of maltreatment who reported having a close relationship with a peer or sibling were more likely to report engaging in violent behavior in adolescence. In total, these findings point

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to the complexity of development and suggest that although a close relationship with an adult can be protective, the mere presence of such a relationship, without inquiry into the type of relationship, is not sufficient.

[Mental Health Experiences of Sex Trafficking Victims in Western Countries: A Qualitative Study](#)

Chu, K., & Billings, J. (2020). Mental Health Experiences of Sex Trafficking Victims in Western Countries: A Qualitative Study. *Journal of Human Trafficking*, 1-23.
[doi:10.1080/23322705.2020.1825897](https://doi.org/10.1080/23322705.2020.1825897)

Authors: Chu, Cassandra; Billings, Jo

Publication Year: 2020

Summary: This article describes the psychological factors of individuals at-risk of sexual exploitation and the psychological control tactics used by traffickers to maintain their vulnerability. The findings provide insight to the complex needs of victims, survivors, and those vulnerable to exploitation and abuse.

Abstract: In recent years, human trafficking has received increasing public awareness and media attention, and sex trafficking in particular has become a prevailing human rights issue on a global scale. Despite growing scientific literature in the field, there remains a limited number of international qualitative studies investigating victims' needs. This study aims to explore the experiences of people who have been sex trafficked in a Western country and how this impacted their mental health, as described in online first-person accounts. First-person online narratives of sex trafficking victims (n = 30) were retrieved from a systematic online search. A thematic analysis identified overarching themes, with the most prominent being 1) preexisting vulnerabilities, 2) psychological mechanisms involved in trafficking (i.e. deception, manipulation), and 3) barriers to recovery. The results showed how preexisting vulnerabilities can impact victims' susceptibility to trafficking and how psychological control tactics utilized in the trafficking process maintain victims' vulnerability. The results of this thematic analysis provide insight into the diverse set of mental, social, and legal needs that trafficking victims face and may inform potential post-trafficking interventions to meet these needs and prevention efforts to reduce vulnerability to trafficking. Further implications and methodological considerations are discussed in full.

[Entering Prostitution in Adolescence: History of Youth Homelessness Predicts Earlier Entry](#)

Cronley, C., Cimino, A. N., Hohn, K., Davis, J., & Madden, E. (2016). Entering Prostitution in

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Adolescence: History of Youth Homelessness Predicts Earlier Entry. *Journal of Aggression, Maltreatment & Trauma*, 25(9), 893-908.

[doi:10.1080/10926771.2016.1223246](https://doi.org/10.1080/10926771.2016.1223246)

Authors: Cronley, Courtney; Cimino, Andrea N.; Hohn, Kris; Davis, Jaya; Madden, Elissa

Publication Year: 2016

Summary: This article evaluates the effect of youth homelessness and when a juvenile enters prostitution. Findings indicate socioeconomic dimensions like poverty and social mobility underlie the relationship between youth homelessness and prostitution. The authors recommend further research is needed to design better age-specific prevention strategies for homeless youth at risk of exploitation.

Abstract: The effect of youth homelessness on age of entry into prostitution was tested, controlling for other known covariates using a multivariate model. Women (N = 96) who self-identified as having engaged in prostitution completed cross-sectional standardized questionnaires ($M_{\text{age}} = 42.6$, $SD = 9.18$; 62% African American). Women with a history of youth homelessness entered prostitution nearly 8 years earlier than their peers without this history (at 18 vs. 25 years old). Lack of a high school degree or equivalent also predicted an earlier age of entry (at 20 vs. 28 years old). Findings highlight the poverty dynamics that underlie the relationship between early entry into prostitution and homelessness. Young women, living on the street or in shelters, with limited education and employment opportunities, are at high risk of entering prostitution when they are barely out of adolescence. Future research will be better able to design age-specific prevention strategies.

[Differences in Abuse and Related Risk and Protective Factors by Runaway Status for Adolescents Seen at a U.S. Child Advocacy Centre](#)

Edinburgh, L. D., Harpin, S. B., Garcia, C. M., & Saewyc, E. M. (2013). Differences in Abuse and Related Risk and Protective Factors by Runaway Status for Adolescents Seen at a U.S. Child Advocacy Centre. *International Journal of Child and Adolescent Resilience*, 1(1), 4-16.

Authors: Edinburgh, Laurel D.; Harpin, Scott B.; Garcia, Carolyn M.; Saewyc, Elizabeth M.

Publication Year: 2013

Summary: This article evaluates the prevalence and characteristics of abuse and the risk and protective factors of abuse among runaway and non-runaway juveniles in Child Advocacy Centers (CAC). The study finds runaway youth are at higher risk of abuse and exploitation and recommends CACs develop referral systems for routine assessment of sexual assault, screen for protective factors, and trauma responses to guide interventions.

Abstract: Objective(s): This study examined the abuse prevalence and characteristics, and risk and protective factors, among both runaway and non-runaway adolescents evaluated at a Child Advocacy Center (CAC) in Minnesota, which had implemented a referral program to assess runaways for potential sexual assault or sexual exploitation. Methods: A cross-sectional analysis of self-report and chart data for the 489 adolescent girls who were evaluated between 2008 and 2010. Chi-square and t-tests by runaway status compared abuse experiences, trauma responses, health issues, and potential protective assets associated with resilience between runaways and non-runaways. Bivariate logistic regressions explored the relationship of these risk and protective factors to self-harm, suicide attempts, and problem substance use, separately for runaways and non-runaways who had experienced sexual abuse. Results: Runaways were significantly more likely than non-runaways to have experienced severe sexual abuse, to have used alcohol and drugs, and reported problem substance use behavior, higher levels of emotional distress, more sexual partners, and they were more likely to have a sexually transmitted infection (STI). Runaways had lower levels on average of social supports associated with resilience, such as connectedness to school, family or other adults. Yet higher levels of these assets were linked to lower odds of self-harm, suicide attempt and problem substance use for both groups. Conclusions and Implications: CACs should encourage referrals of runaway adolescents for routine assessment of sexual assault, and incorporate screening for protective factors in addition to trauma responses in their assessments of all adolescents evaluated for possible sexual abuse, to guide interventions.

[Youth Internet Safety Education: Aligning Programs with the Evidence Base](#)

Finkelhor, D., Walsh, K., Jones, L., Mitchell, K., & Collier, A. (2020). Youth Internet Safety Education: Aligning Programs With the Evidence Base. *Trauma Violence Abuse*, 1524838020916257. [doi:10.1177/1524838020916257](https://doi.org/10.1177/1524838020916257)

Finkelhor, David; Walsh, Kerryann; Jones, Lisa; Mitchell, Kimberly; Collier, Anne

Publication Year: 2020

Summary: This article reviews the curriculum of youth internet safety education programs and evaluates the messaging as compared to the findings of internet safety research literature. The study finds significant mixed messaging concerning internet harms like sexual exploitation and sexting. The authors describe the implications of their findings and recommend such education programs could improve outcomes to safety online and offline by integrating the education programs with well-established evidence-based programs.

Abstract: This review critically examines the messages of youth internet safety education programs in the light of research about both the dynamics of internet dangers and the efficacy of youth prevention education. METHODS: Using terms "internet safety education" and "digital citizenship," a Google search identified 12 multi-topic safety programs. Review articles were

identified via Google Scholar for six forms of online harm to youth that have been targeted by many of these programs: cyberbullying (19 articles); online sexual exploitation (23 articles); sexting (19 articles); online fraud, hacking, and identity theft (6 articles); online suicide and self-harm promotion (18 articles); and internet overuse or addiction (15 articles). FINDINGS: There appear to be mismatches between dynamics revealed in the research about internet harms and the messages emphasized in educational programs, particularly on the issues of sexual exploitation and sexting. Overall, the review literature also suggests major advantages to integrating internet safety into already well-established and evidence-based programs currently addressing related off-line harms, for example, programs focusing on general bullying, dating abuse, or sexual abuse prevention. The advantages stem from four factors: (1) the considerable overlap between online harms and similar off-line harms, (2) the apparent greater prevalence of off-line harms, (3) the evidence that the same risk factors lie behind both online and off-line harms, and most importantly, (4) the substantially superior evidence base for the longer standing programs developed originally around the off-line harms.

[The Public Health Impact of Coronavirus Disease on Human Trafficking](#)

Greenbaum, J., Stoklosa, H., & Murphy, L. (2020). The Public Health Impact of Coronavirus Disease on Human Trafficking. *Front Public Health*, 8, 561184.
[doi:10.3389/fpubh.2020.561184](https://doi.org/10.3389/fpubh.2020.561184)

Authors: Greenbaum, Jordan; Stoklosa, Hanni; Murphy, Laura

Publication Year: 2020

Summary: This article considers the implications of the public health response of the COVID-19 pandemic. The study finds the social isolation of families increased the risk factors for violence and exploitation and cut off at-risk populations and trafficking victims from protective services.

Abstract: The global pandemic of severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 exacerbates major risk factors for global human trafficking. Social isolation of families and severe economic distress amplify the risk of interpersonal violence, unemployment and homelessness, as well as increased internet use by under-supervised children. Aggravating the situation are overwhelmed health systems, severe limitations in activities of social service organizations, and decreased contact of healthcare professionals with children. Healthcare professionals have a duty to be alert to possible indicators of trafficking, and aware of available victim resources which can be offered to at-risk patients. Healthcare facilities should take steps to increase public awareness of trafficking and community resources.

[LGBTQ+ Homeless Young Adults and Sex Trafficking Vulnerability](#)

Hogan, K. A., & Roe-Sepowitz, D. (2020). LGBTQ+ Homeless Young Adults and Sex Trafficking

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Vulnerability. *Journal of Human Trafficking*, 1-16. [doi:10.1080/23322705.2020.1841985](https://doi.org/10.1080/23322705.2020.1841985)

Authors: Hogan, Kimberly A.; Roe-Sepowitz, Dominique

Publication Year: 2020

Summary: This study evaluates the vulnerability and victimization of LGBTQ+ young adults. The study finds increased risks and incidents of exploitation, suicide attempts, drug use, risk-seeking behaviors, and rape in the LGBTQ+ homeless youth community. The implications and areas for future research are discussed.

Abstract: The sexual exploitation of LGBTQ+ young adults and how to best serve this population is an emerging field of knowledge. In July 2015, a cross-sectional purposeful sampling design was used to recruit 215 homeless young adults (ages 18–25) from greater Phoenix and Tucson, Arizona, to complete the paper and pencil Youth Experiences Survey. Over a third of the sample reported having been sex trafficked, and of those, over half were LGBTQ+. Further, amongst the sample, the odds of being LGBTQ+ and sex trafficked were two times higher compared to being heterosexual. Sex trafficked LGBTQ+ homeless young adults were found to be significantly more likely to report exchanging sex for money and were also found to have reported higher rates of challenging life experiences, including suicide attempts, drug use, risk-taking, and being raped between ages 13–17 compared to sex trafficked heterosexual homeless young adults. The implications of these findings are discussed, and future research on sex trafficked LGBTQ+ homeless individuals is recommended.

[Selling and buying sex: a longitudinal study of risk and protective factors in adolescence](#)

Kaestle, C. E. (2012). Selling and buying sex: a longitudinal study of risk and protective factors in adolescence. *Prevention Science*, 13(3), 314-322. [doi:10.1007/s11121-011-0268-8](https://doi.org/10.1007/s11121-011-0268-8)

Author: Kaestle, Christine E.

Publication Year: 2012

Summary: This study captures longitudinal data of juveniles engaged in the buying and selling of sex to determine the contributing risk factors of juveniles selling or buying sex. The study identified predictors related to demographic dimensions, drug use, trauma history, homelessness, and others as significant predictors of trading sex. The findings show protective factors like school connectedness lowered the risk of at-risk youth across all socioeconomic dimensions while early intervention is important for juveniles who experienced sexual abuse or ran away from home.

Abstract: Engaging in trading sex is associated with many co-occurring problems, including elevated risk for sexually transmitted infections. Various dimensions of social support from

parents, schools, and mentors may be protective against sex trading and may ameliorate the impact of risk factors. This study analyzes data from respondents to Waves I and III of the National Longitudinal Study of Adolescent Health (Add Health) who had not participated in sex trading for money or drugs in Wave I so that risk and protective factors for first initiations of selling or buying sex could be examined longitudinally. About 2% of the study sample began selling sex and about 2% began buying sex between Wave I and Wave III. The respondent's sex, race/ethnicity, history of sexual abuse, shoplifting, marijuana use, and experiences of homelessness or running away were significant predictors of trading sex ($p < 0.05$). Being happy at school was associated with lower selling of sex, and feeling part of school was associated with lower buying of sex even after controlling for demographics and risk factors ($p < 0.05$). Results indicate a need for early intervention for youth who experience sexual abuse or running away. Elements of school connectedness have a protective effect on selling and buying sex. Promoting school connectedness may advance public health goals.

[Human Trafficking – Between Punishable Human Rights Violations and Decriminalization](#)

Schmidt, A. (2020). Human Trafficking – Between Punishable Human Rights Violations and Decriminalization. *European Criminal Law Review*, 10(3), 272-292. [doi:10.5771/2193-5505-2020-3-272](https://doi.org/10.5771/2193-5505-2020-3-272)

Author: Schmidt, Anja

Publication Year: 2020

Summary: This paper describes what constitutes human trafficking as a violation of human rights, contrasted with the range of phenomena covered by the legal definition of human trafficking, and an approach to establish more precise definitions that neither exaggerates all phenomena legally defined as human trafficking as human rights violations, nor trivializes human rights.

Abstract: The necessity of combating human trafficking is often justified by the violation of human rights of the victims of human trafficking. Criticism has, however, repeatedly been voiced that the victim-centered, human rights-based approach has not been consistently applied – because, in reality, state interests in effectively combating (organized) crime and securing borders against illegal migration take precedence. An opposite tendency criticizes the criminalization of human traffic on the grounds that human rights are not violated in every case within the definition of human trafficking, and criminalization is inappropriate in such cases. Furthermore, various parties point out that there is little empirical data on trafficking in human beings, and the available data is unreliable. This contribution aims to provide an overview of these issues and argue in favor of a nuanced examination of phenomena covered by the legal definition of human trafficking.

[Understanding and Preventing the Sexual Exploitation of Youth](#)

Wurtele, S. K. (2017). Understanding and Preventing the Sexual Exploitation of Youth. In *Reference Module in Neuroscience and Biobehavioral Psychology*. [doi:10.1016/B978-0-12-809324-5.05192-0](https://doi.org/10.1016/B978-0-12-809324-5.05192-0)

Author: Wurtele, Sandy K.

Publication Year: 2017

Summary: This article provides an overview of commercial and non-commercial forms of sexual exploitation of youth. It covers definitions, examines the scope and consequences of the problem, reviews characteristics of victims and offenders, and describes a public health approach to primary prevention targeting children, families, youth-serving organizations, society, and cyberspace.

Abstract: Childhood sexual abuse (CSA) and commercial sexual exploitation of children (CSEC) are significant public health problems affecting millions of individuals in the United States (U.S.) and across the globe. Both forms of sexual exploitation extract a considerable toll on victims and society, and are egregious violations of children's fundamental rights to freedom from violence and exploitation. Shamefully, ours is a world where boys and girls of all ages are sexually exploited; fondled, molested, raped, and sold for an adult's personal or financial benefit. The purpose of this article is to provide an overview of all forms of sexual exploitation; commercial and non-commercial. This article will cover definitions and describe offenders, examine the scope of the problem, describe consequences, review risk factors across multiple ecological levels, and present a public health approach to primary prevention. Using an ecological framework, prevention strategies targeting many segments of society, including children, families, youth-serving organizations, society, and cyberspace, will be described.

[Technology-Related Sexual Solicitation of Adolescents: A Review of Prevention Efforts](#)

Wurtele, S. K., & Kenny, M. C. (2016). Technology-Related Sexual Solicitation of Adolescents: A Review of Prevention Efforts. *Child Abuse Review*, 25(5), 332-344. [doi:10.1002/car.2445](https://doi.org/10.1002/car.2445)

Authors: Wurtele, Sandy K.; Kenny, Maureen C.

Publication Year: 2016

Summary: This article describes the risks associated with digital technology for juveniles living in high-income countries. The authors present vulnerabilities, risk factors, and practices used by perpetrators to solicit, groom, and exploit juveniles and additional ways to safeguard youth from technology-related sexual solicitations.

Abstract: Information and communication technologies (ICTs), particularly the internet and internet-enabled devices, have rapidly become integral to adolescents' lives in high-income countries. ICTs are associated with many benefits, but there are risks associated with digital technology. This paper examines one such risk: When adults use ICTs, including social networking sites, mobile phones and smartphones, to sexually solicit adolescents. We describe youth who appear to be more vulnerable to technology-related sexual solicitations from adults and examine the developmental factors that place adolescents at particular risk. Perpetrators who use technology to electronically groom youth are described, including adults working in youth-serving organizations. Current digital media safety lessons and messages are described, and suggestions for additional ways to safeguard youth from technology-related sexual solicitations are offered.



Recognize

[Research on Male Victims in Underserved Communities](#)

Research on Male Victims in Underserved Communities. (2020). In *Annotated Bibliography* (pp. 1-11): The Center for Victim Research.

Publication Year: 2020

Summary: This annotated bibliography contains systematic literature reviews, surveys, and program evaluations, with most documents published between 2014 and 2020. Topics include intimate partner violence, sexual assault, sexual abuse, and violent victimization such as robbery, aggravated assault, and assault with a weapon. Resources are grouped by sections about male victims in general and for populations covered.

Abstract: The Center for Victim Research (CVR) Library's annotated bibliographies collect and summarize research about difficult-to-search topics in victim research. Considering multiple aspects of individuals' identities and lived experiences allows for a clearer picture of crime victims' unique needs and potential barriers to help seeking. In this annotated bibliography, the Center for Victim Research Library has collected research about male victims*, with sections on

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men from rural communities, Indigenous men, men and boys in criminal and juvenile justice systems, and undocumented immigrant men. While most articles below focus on heterosexual, cis, adult men, a few articles discuss emerging adults and youth.

[A Review of Child Sex Trafficking Instruments](#)

Devon E. Romero, Claudia G. Interiano-Shiverdecker, Nancy E. Castellon & Julie Strentzsch (2021): A Review of Child Sex Trafficking Instruments, *Journal of Child and Adolescent Counseling*. Retrieved from: <https://doi.org/10.1080/23727810.2020.1835421>

Authors: Devon E. Romero, Claudia G. Interiano-Shiverdecker, Nancy E. Castellon & Julie Strentzsch

Publication Year: 2021

Summary: This article is a review of existing assessment tools designed to screen or identify Child Sex Trafficking (CST) currently available and to assess their application for counseling practices. The researchers discuss each screening tool's scope, validity findings, strengths, limitations, and access to the instrument. While no tool was found specific for counselors, they discuss the possible use of the specific tools they found in a clinical counseling practice.

Abstract: Child sex trafficking (CST) has continued to exist in plain sight and often goes unidentified or misidentified in mental health settings. Often generalized as human trafficking, official statistics of children who fall victim of sex trafficking remains unknown and understudied. With social platforms becoming more available to youth, children are increasingly vulnerable to CST and are unaware of their exposure to victimization. Counselors working with children and adolescents are in a unique position to prevent and disrupt CST if detected in the counseling relationship, but the lack of CST assessment tools hinders an accurate assessment of CST. Therefore, the authors reviewed existing published screening or identification tools for CST available and applicable for mental health and school settings. At the completion of an expansive search of tools, the authors excluded results that did not meet the strict criteria. This paper reviews the four remaining instruments and presents information on their scope, reliability, validity, strengths, limitations, and source. The authors also discuss considerations for each instrument in clinical practice, providing a resource for counselors seeking a CST assessment tool that best fits their population and setting.

[Sexual Exploitation - New Challenges, New Answers](#)

Sexual Exploitation - New Challenges, New Answers. (2019). Retrieved from <https://www.fondationscelles.org>

Publication Year: 2019

Summary: This series report is a compendium of research articles covering the developments in online procurement and online sexual exploitation of children, developments in technology benefiting the sex industry, the critical need of prevention interventions, the relationship between pornography and sexual exploitation, understanding the system of prostitution to combat it, the increase in minors and young adults in the prostitution system, sexual violence and exploitation in armed conflicts, the legal framework of child sex tourism, and a comparative analysis of the impact to countries that implemented the Nordic model policy to combat prostitution and sexual exploitation. The report also includes international legal rulings made over the reporting period as well as a selection of country reports with policy recommendations.

Abstract: This is the fifth edition of our Global Report on sexual exploitation around the world. Our main goal is, even more so than for the previous reports, to bring a sense of urgency to our readers, highlighting the realities, developments, and impacts of this growing criminal phenomenon. Through reading about the situations of 35 countries and 11 topical themes, these are the lessons to take away from the harsh assessment this report presents: the universality of exploitation, the normalization of prostitution increasingly seen as a market like any other, and the expansion of an industry with profits multiplied by the perverted use of the tremendous opportunities offered by internet. Despite the varied, sometimes contradictory and too often isolated efforts of a number of public and private organizations that refuse to see ever younger victims suffer ever more intolerable violence, it is without doubt most alarming to observe that the market for sexual exploitation is continuing to grow. Over the period covered by this report, violence against women has been brought to light, notably by the global #MeToo movement. At the same time, the increased number of migrants escaping poverty or war has galvanized organized crime, leaving countries helpless and the public in disarray. Make no mistake, without a clear awareness of the issues and a collective desire to address the new challenges that sexual exploitation puts in front of us, in front of our societies, these violence, injustices, and discrimination have a bright future. As we are faced with these new challenges, solutions can and must be provided here and now.

[Trafficking People with Disabilities: a Legal Analysis](#)

Carey, C., & Peterson, S. (2020). Trafficking People with Disabilities: a Legal Analysis. *Cardozo Journal of Equal Rights and Social Justice*, 26(3), 471-497. Retrieved from <https://www.cardozoersj.com/volume-26>

Authors: Carey, Christopher; Peterson, Sarahfina

Publication Year: 2020

Summary: This legal note and primer analyzes the legal and political barriers to identify and protect people with disabilities (PWD) and intellectually disabled people in the United States

from exploitation and abuse. The authors describe the sociocultural norms, policies, and legislation preventing PWD-specific interventions as well as the incentives that make PWD and ID individual targets of exploitation and abuse.

Abstract: The perpetrators of human trafficking seek out victims who are particularly vulnerable and easily cut off from larger society. People with disabilities (PWD) often rely on others to meet their everyday needs. Sometimes PWD, have trouble communicating their circumstances to others and, if they do, they are not always believed. The general culture of prejudice towards PWD can contribute to a feeling of isolation and hopelessness among the disabled, making them more susceptible to traffickers who promise friendship or sexual relationships. Those with significant disabilities are often financially compensated by the government through the Social Security Administration. This provides a further economic impetus to traffickers who claim they are (or are, in fact) the victim’s custodial caretaker. The disabled person is then kept in horrific conditions of sexual or labor-oriented servitude while the trafficker confiscates their benefits. The exploitation of PWD is rooted in multiple systems of oppression. Americans tend to view human trafficking as an international problem—a symptom of economic duress in underdeveloped countries, connected to organized crime or the drug trade. This common cultural frame may aid in allowing us to ignore the smaller-scale human trafficking crimes that occur within our borders. These forms of modern-day slavery include forced labor and intra-family abuse. This note will serve as a primer on law and precedent pertaining to the trafficking of PWD in the United States. It will also highlight some of the problems inherent in prosecuting domestic traffickers. These issues make it difficult for law enforcement to address trafficking crimes against PWD and for researchers to track data on the scope of this crime. Lastly, we will discuss the need for further research to address the unique difficulties and susceptibilities of PWD. People with disabilities cannot be lost in the legal and policy debates surrounding human trafficking. They deserve our attention.

[Uncovering Intentions to Exit Prostitution: Findings from a Qualitative Study](#)

Cimino, A. N. (2019). Uncovering Intentions to Exit Prostitution: Findings from a Qualitative Study. *Victims & Offenders, 14*(5), 606-624. [doi:10.1080/15564886.2019.1628144](https://doi.org/10.1080/15564886.2019.1628144)

Author: Cimino, Andrea N.

Publication Year: 2019

Summary: This article describes the cognitive and attitude changes that occur when an individual decides to leave prostitution to provide an additional evidence base and resource to improve assessment and intervention efforts.

Abstract: Exiting prostitution is a process for which we have little empirical understanding. This study provides evidence of a process-oriented theory of intentions to exit prostitution that operationalizes key aspects of exiting. Interviews from 16 persons formerly and actively selling

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sex helped define intentions to exit as a combination of glamorization and risk-recognition attitudes, stigma from significant others, one's own resilient self-efficacy beliefs, and agency. Findings contribute to our understanding of the cognitive changes that occur when a person decides to leave prostitution, which can be used to inform a readiness to exit assessment and interventions that increase intentions to exit.

[Educating pediatric health-care providers about human trafficking](#)

Coughlin, C. G., Greenbaum, J., & Titchen, K. (2020). Educating paediatric health-care providers about human trafficking. *J Paediatr Child Health*, 56(9), 1335-1339.
[doi:10.1111/jpc.15116](https://doi.org/10.1111/jpc.15116)

Authors: Coughlin, Catherine G.; Greenbaum, Jordan; Titchen, Kanani

Publication Year: 2020

Summary: This article describes the deficits in human trafficking training, evidence-based practices, and support service networks in pediatric settings.

Abstract: Human trafficking is a public health issue and humanitarian crisis. Most alarming is that children are especially at risk. Although many studies demonstrate that the majority of trafficked persons surveyed engage with the health-care system during the time in which they are trafficked, health-care practitioners lack the knowledge, tools and resources to assist these patients. The present efforts in training health-care professionals have been fragmented and largely ineffective. While prior training has produced short-term changes in knowledge or attitudes of health professionals, it has not produced sustained changes in knowledge and attitudes nor meaningful changes in screening or intervention. No training has demonstrated changes in patient outcomes. Trafficked persons, particularly children and survivors of labor trafficking, are inadequately served by our present training options for health-care practitioners, and evidence-based protocols are needed to care for this underserved, disenfranchised and traumatized population. To provide optimal care for trafficked youth, health-care practitioners may benefit from: (i) evaluating training for health care providers (HCP) rigorously and meaningfully; (ii) advocating for high-quality training for all HCPs; (iii) fostering partnerships with key stakeholders to inform training and practice; and (iv) designing HCP training that is comprehensive, spanning all forms of human trafficking and including all populations involved.

[Enhancing the Identification of Commercial Sexual Exploitation Among a Population of High-Risk Youths Using Predictive Regularization Models](#)

de Vries, I., Kafafian, M., Goggin, K., Bouchard, E., Goldfarb, S., & Farrell, A. (2020). Enhancing the Identification of Commercial Sexual Exploitation Among a Population of High-Risk

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Youths Using Predictive Regularization Models. *Child Maltreatment*, 25(3), 318-327.
[doi:10.1177/1077559519889178](https://doi.org/10.1177/1077559519889178)

Authors: de Vries, Ieke; Kafafian, Matthew; Goggin, Kelly; Bouchard, Elizabeth; Goldfarb, Susan; Farrell, Amy

Publication Year: 2020

Summary: This article examines the limitations of assessment tools and services in health care settings to identify commercially sexually exploited children (CSEC). The study finds further research in CSEC poly-victimization and tailored assessment models to identify CSEC victims are necessary to improve recovery interventions and treatment.

Abstract: Despite an increasing awareness about the existence and harms of commercial sexual exploitation of children (CSEC), the identification of victims remains a challenge for practitioners, hindering their ability to provide appropriate services. Tools that gauge risk of CSEC support the identification of victims but are underdeveloped because most tools assess risk of CSEC within a general youth population. An understanding of what predicts actual CSEC victimizations among youths at higher risk of CSEC due to experiences of childhood adversities has been left unassessed. Research in this area is limited in part because traditional methods do not allow for an assessment of the unique impact of childhood adversities that tend to co-occur. To address these difficulties, the current study applied predictive regularization methods to identify the most decisive risk items for CSEC. Proximal risk of CSEC was assessed among 317 youths who were referred to a specialized program in the Northeast of the United States due to suspicion of CSEC. With an innovative methodological approach, this study seeks to prompt other scholars to examine risk utilizing novel techniques and provides a foundation for the development of concise tools that assess risk of CSEC among populations of youths at higher levels of risk.

[What Do EMS Professionals Know about Human Trafficking? An Exploratory Study](#)

Donnelly, E. A., Oehme, K., Barris, D., & Melvin, R. (2018). What Do EMS Professionals Know about Human Trafficking? An Exploratory Study. *Journal of Human Trafficking*, 5(4), 325-335. [doi:10.1080/23322705.2018.1501258](https://doi.org/10.1080/23322705.2018.1501258)

Authors: Donnelly, Elizabeth A.; Oehme, Karen; Barris, Dwayne; Melvin, Rebecca

Publication Year: 2018

Summary: This article examines the lack of human trafficking training for Emergency Medical Services (EMS) professionals. The study finds trained EMS professionals were significantly less likely to endorse trafficking myths and were able to identify trafficking victims with greater

frequency. The authors' response to the findings include a free interactive training on human trafficking for EMS professionals (<https://dvmedtraining.csw.fsu.edu/training/ems/>)

Abstract: Introduction: Human trafficking has gained attention as a major human rights concern, yet little is known about the awareness of human trafficking among Emergency Medical Services (EMS) professionals. This is a significant concern; EMS professionals may be uniquely equipped to intervene with victims of trafficking. To address this gap, this study assessed the familiarity with and attitudes about trafficking in EMS professionals. Methods: An anonymous online survey assessed whether respondents had previous trafficking training, if they endorsed myths related to trafficking, recognized indicators of trafficking, and the awareness of how to report suspected trafficking. A total of n = 244 EMS professionals completed the survey. Results: Less than half of respondents reporting received training in human trafficking. Respondents who completed training were significantly less likely to endorse myths about trafficking and were able to identify indicators of trafficking more frequently. Previous training did not influence preferred avenues for reporting trafficking. Implications: To address the identified gaps, a detailed description of training is outlined, including governmental data, myths about trafficking, warning signs of trafficking, and suggestions for a trauma-informed approach to interacting with suspected victims. Operationalizing these findings, the research team created a free interactive training on human trafficking for EMS professionals (<https://dvmedtraining.csw.fsu.edu/training/ems/>).

[Forensic Interviewers' Difficulty With Invitations: Faux Invitations and Negative Recasting](#)

Henderson, H. M., Russo, N., & Lyon, T. D. (2020). Forensic Interviewers' Difficulty With Invitations: Faux Invitations and Negative Recasting. *Child Maltreat*, 25(3), 363-372. [doi:10.1177/1077559519895593](https://doi.org/10.1177/1077559519895593)

Authors: Henderson, Hayden M.; Russo, Natalie; Lyon, Thomas D.

Publication Year: 2020

Summary: This study evaluates the difficulties child forensic interviewers have with the effective use of invitations to encourage disclosure of child abuse. The study findings identified the structural and methodological changes to elicit specific types of relevant information for interviewers to increase productivity, responsiveness, and response certainty.

Abstract: An ongoing challenge for forensic interviewers is to maximize their use of invitations, such as requests that the child "tell me more about" details mentioned by the child. Examining 434 interviews with 4- to 12-year-old children questioned about abuse, this study analyzed (1) faux invitations, in which interviewers prefaced questions with "tell me" but then asked a non-invitation, (2) negative recasts, in which interviewers started to ask an invitation but then recast the question as a wh- or option-posing question, and (3) other aspects of questions that may relate to productivity independent of their status as invitations. About one fourth of "tell me"

questions were faux invitations, and over 80% of recasts were negative. The frequency of both faux invitations and negative recasts increased during the substantive phase of the interviews, and these were related to decreased productivity, increased non-responsiveness, and increased uncertainty. In contrast, use of exhaustive terms (e.g., "tell me everything") and non-static questions (e.g., about actions) was related to increased productivity. The results suggest that training should teach interviewers when and how strategic use of invitations and other question types can elicit specific types of forensically relevant information.

[Human Trafficking “Modern Day Slavery” Promoting the Need for Adequate Screening, Assessment, and Interventions for Physical and Mental Conditions by Healthcare Professionals](#)

Kennedy, B. (2019). Human Trafficking “Modern Day Slavery” Promoting the Need for Adequate Screening, Assessment, and Interventions for Physical and Mental Conditions by Healthcare Professionals. *BRK Global Healthcare Journal* (1).
[doi:10.35455/brk123456789](https://doi.org/10.35455/brk123456789)

Author: Kennedy, Bernice

Publication Year: 2019

Summary: This study examines the Holistic Model Based on Adequate Screening, Assessment, and Interventions for Improving the Health Outcomes in Victims of Human Trafficking to improve outcomes of strategies to identify trafficking victims in diverse healthcare settings. The study finds the model a useful addition to identify trafficking victims when they present certain illnesses. Two strategies to improve healthcare outcomes for trafficking victims are discussed.

Abstract: Worldwide human trafficking, frequently referred to as “modern-day slavery,” is the third-largest criminal industry and one of the fastest-growing, surpassed only by arms and drug dealing. Human trafficking is a multi-faceted complex global issue that involves essentially all developed countries either as a source, transit or destination sites. It is the act of recruiting, receiving, and apprehending individuals using threat, coercion and or physical force for exploitation. This analytical review of the literature addressed existing research and literature on the current status of human trafficking. The victims of trafficking may access some healthcare organizations at some point in time during their captivity. Therefore, health professionals (e.g., advanced practice nurses, nurses) need to be able to screen, assess and identify certain clues and health conditions that are common to this population. Besides, to improve their health outcomes, this visit will be useful for their capture. The Holistic Model Based on Adequate Screening, Assessment and Interventions for Improving the Health Outcomes in Victims of Human Trafficking is a useful model for guiding health professionals in recognizing the relevance of abuse when victims present certain illnesses in diverse healthcare organizations. Strategies for improving the health outcomes for this group include: (a) adequate screening, assessment, and interventions and (b) more education for health

Recognize, continued

professionals on assessing and recognizing victims of human trafficking. Policy development is needed in changing laws for the protection of victims of human trafficking around the globe.

[Human Sex Trafficking in America: What Counselors Need to Know](#)

Litam, S. D. A. (2017). Human Sex Trafficking in America: What Counselors Need to Know. *The Professional Counselor*, 7(1), 45-61. [doi:10.15241/sdal.7.1.45](https://doi.org/10.15241/sdal.7.1.45)

Author: Litam, Stacey Diane A.

Publication Year: 2017

Summary: This article provides a brief overview of the definition, terms and processes associated with human trafficking. Next, the vulnerabilities and signs that a person has been or is currently being trafficked are presented. Finally, we address the clinical implications of working with trafficked survivors and identify trauma-sensitive interventions.

Abstract: The social justice issue of human sex trafficking is a global form of oppression that places men, women and children at risk for sexual exploitation. Although a body of research exists on the topics of human trafficking, literature specific to the mental health implications for counselors working with this population is limited. Counselors should increase their awareness of the vulnerabilities that place persons at risk of becoming trafficked. Additionally, obtaining a deeper understanding of the indicators and processes through which persons become trafficked is necessary in order to provide appropriate services. Counselors should learn how force, fraud and coercion influence the wellness of trafficked persons. The following article provides an overview of the relevant information pertinent to sex trafficking and addresses the counseling implications for working with sex trafficked survivors.

[Domestic Minor Sex Trafficking: A Case Series of Male Pediatric Patients](#)

Moore, J., Fitzgerald, M., Owens, T., Slingsby, B., Barron, C., & Goldberg, A. (2020). Domestic Minor Sex Trafficking: A Case Series of Male Pediatric Patients. *Journal of Interpersonal Violence*, 886260519900323. [doi:10.1177/0886260519900323](https://doi.org/10.1177/0886260519900323)

Authors: Moore, J.; Fitzgerald, M.; Owens, T.; Slingsby, B.; Barron, C.; Goldberg, A.

Publication Year: 2020

Summary: This paper documents six specific cases where male participants presented for concern of sex trafficking. The study finds complex behavioral, medical, and psychiatric concerns similar to female victims of domestic minor sex trafficking (DMST). The authors recommend testing, DMST screening, and interventions be completed in male patients as well.

Abstract: Domestic minor sex trafficking (DMST) is the commercial sexual exploitation of children (<18 years old) who are U.S. citizens or lawful permanent residents, victimized within U.S. borders. There is limited knowledge and research in regard to male involvement in DMST outside the context of homelessness and runaway youth. To our knowledge, no research specifically examines at-risk or involved male youth from a larger dataset of youth who present to a child abuse outpatient medical clinic. The objective of the present case series was to describe the demographic, psychosocial, medical, and psychiatric characteristics of natal male participants (who did not identify as transgender) suspected of DMST involvement. Six medical records of male patients under the age of 18 who were referred to a child protection clinic for concern of DMST involvement between 8/1/13 and 12/31/18 were retrospectively reviewed. Our case series demonstrates that male participants present for concern of sex trafficking and have complex behavioral, medical, and psychiatric concerns similar to what has been identified in research focused on female victims. Therefore, testing (e.g., sexually transmitted infection (STI)/HIV testing, urine toxicology screening), DMST screening, and interventions (e.g., STI prophylaxis, referrals to mental health counselors) should be completed in male patients.

[Running a gauntlet: A review of victimization and violence in the pre-entry, post-entry, and peri-/post-exit periods of commercial sexual exploitation](#)

Wilson, B., & Butler, L. D. (2014). Running a gauntlet: A review of victimization and violence in the pre-entry, post-entry, and peri-/post-exit periods of commercial sexual exploitation. *Psychological Trauma: Theory, Research, Practice, and Policy*, 6(5), 494-504.
[doi:10.1037/a0032977](https://doi.org/10.1037/a0032977)

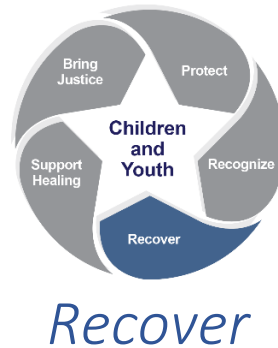
Authors: Wilson, Bincy; Butler, Lisa D.

Publication Year: 2014

Summary: This article reviewed the common risk factors associated with entry into the sex trade industry, the traumas commonly experienced while in the industry and their psychological sequelae, and the challenges surrounding, and longer-term impact of, endeavoring to exit the industry. The authors describe the complex conditions present at each of these three stages (pre-entry, post-entry, and peri-/post-exit) and how they result in challenges in treating this population.

Abstract: International sex trafficking and domestic prostitution are each forms of commercial sexual exploitation (CSE), and CSE typically encompasses a gauntlet of victimization and violence for its victims. Girls and women subjected to CSE are not only damaged during their involvement in the sex industry, but they typically suffer maltreatment and related factors before they enter into it and again as they endeavor to leave it. In this article we review the common risk factors associated with entry into the sex trade industry, the traumas commonly

experienced while in the industry and their psychological sequelae, and the challenges surrounding, and longer-term impact of, endeavoring to exit the industry. We describe the complex conditions present at each of these three stages (pre-entry, post-entry, and peri-/post-exit) and how they result in challenges in treating this population. As rates of commercial sexual exploitation increase both nationally and worldwide, there is an urgent need to identify effective interventions for victims and to address the conditions that foster and support CSE.



[Motivational Interviewing in Child Welfare Services: A Systematic Review](#)

Hall, M. T., Sears, J., & Walton, M. T. (2020). Motivational Interviewing in Child Welfare Services: A Systematic Review. *Child Maltreat*, 25(3), 263-276.
[doi:10.1177/1077559519893471](https://doi.org/10.1177/1077559519893471)

Authors: Hall, Martin T.; Sears, Jeanelle; Walton, Matthew T.

Publication Year: 2020

Summary: This literature review article considers the potential outcomes of motivational interviewing (MI) with child welfare (CW) families as well as MI training for social work students in training to work in CW. The meta-research project identified MI mixed outcomes, but MI paired with evidence-based treatments family outcomes were positive. MI training for social work students varies in modality, duration, and intensity, but trainees described increased empathy and self-efficacy when surveyed.

Abstract: Families in the child welfare (CW) system who cannot be engaged in services are at high risk of negative outcomes. As motivational interviewing (MI) has been shown to improve engagement in similar contexts. This study aimed to systematically review MI with CW families as well as MI training with CW workers and social work students training to become CW workers. The review used Preferred Reporting Items for Systematic Reviews and Meta-Analyses guidelines and searched multiple databases in June 2018. In September 2019, the initial search

was repeated with additional searches to identify gray literature. Eight studies described the acquisition of MI among CW workers or student trainees, and 11 studies evaluated the impact of MI on families in CW. MI's impact on some family outcomes, such as engagement in services, was mixed, though MI paired with other evidence-based treatments showed positive effects. With regard to training CW workers and students in MI, differences in training duration, intensity, and modality make conclusions difficult, though trainees generally described MI favorably and some studies showed training increased worker empathy and self-efficacy. Importantly, few published studies have evaluated whether MI-trained CW workers impact out-of-home-care placement and no studies have evaluated their impact on maltreatment.

[On Exiting from Commercial Sexual Exploitation: Insights from Sex Trade Experienced Persons](#)

Heinz, A. (2020). On Exiting from Commercial Sexual Exploitation: Insights from Sex Trade Experienced Persons. *Dignity: A Journal on Sexual Exploitation and Violence*, 5(1). [doi:10.23860/dignity.2020.05.01.08](https://doi.org/10.23860/dignity.2020.05.01.08)

Author: Heinz, Andrea

Publication Year: 2020

Summary: This article describes the development and applications of the Insights from Sex Trade Experienced Persons (InSTEP) continuum of agency model among service providers acting within quasi-autonomous levels of intervention services. The author concludes with contextualized recommendations to improve outcomes.

Abstract: As a woman who exited after seven years in licensed commercial sexual exploitation in Canada, I share my reflections on my experience, which led to the development of the Insights from Sex Trade Experienced Persons (InSTEP) Model. The model was constructed based on interviews with “service providers” in the sex trade. Twelve exited women share their experiences inclusively. InSTEP is geared toward a population of quasi-autonomous providers who have alternate economic options. Three levels are introduced in the InSTEP model to describe the continuum of agency among service providers; Level 1: trafficked/controlled; Level 2: quasi-autonomous; Level 3: autonomous. The InSTEP Model focuses on Level 2 providers and identifies optimal times when helping professionals or agencies could be most effective in offering exit support. Opportunities for change are contextualized within Maslow’s Hierarchy of Needs (1943) and the Prochaska and DiClemente’s (1983) Stages of Change.

[Safe Harbor Legislation for Juvenile Victims of Sex Trafficking: A Myopic View of Improvements in Practice](#)

Recover, continued

Mehlman-Orozco, K. (2015). Safe Harbor Legislation for Juvenile Victims of Sex Trafficking: A Myopic View of Improvements in Practice. *Social Inclusion*, 3(1), 52-62.
[doi:10.17645/si.v3i1.56](https://doi.org/10.17645/si.v3i1.56)

Author: Mehlman-Orozco, Kimberly

Publication Year: 2015

Summary: This article considers the impact of the safe harbor policy by estimating the number of state-level juvenile prostitution arrests since the implementation of the safe harbor policy. The aggregated data from four states suggest the safe harbor laws have not reduced the number of commercially sexually exploited juveniles arrested for prostitution crimes. The author concludes with recommendations to improve the intervention outcomes of the safe harbor policy. Note: an updated study is warranted with additional implementation since 2015.

Abstract: Current social and political realities have focused attention on human trafficking in the United States. Although new mechanisms for criminalizing offenders and protecting victims are increasingly funded and implemented across the country, empirical exploration into the efficacy of these interventions is lacking. This article uses yearly count data on juvenile prostitution arrests aggregated at the state level to explore the criminalization of commercial sexually exploited children post safe harbor policy implementation. Preliminary data from four states suggests that the passage of safe harbor laws may not reduce the number of juveniles arrested for prostitution crimes. Implications for future research are discussed.

[Queering the Support for Trafficked Persons: LGBTQ Communities and Human Trafficking in the Heartland](#)

Schwarz, C., & Britton, H. E. (2015). Queering the Support for Trafficked Persons: LGBTQ Communities and Human Trafficking in the Heartland. *Social Inclusion*, 3(1), 63-75.
<https://doi.org/10.17645/si.v3i1.172>

Authors: Schwarz, Corinne; Britton, Hannah E.

Publication Year: 2015

Summary: This article presents a prevention approach that supports a survivor-centered model that incorporates survivor empowerment through non-linear support services where structural factors, like demographic information or socioeconomic dimensions, exclude vulnerable and marginalized populations.

Abstract: Human trafficking justice centers on the “Three Ps” model of prevention, protection, and prosecution. While protection and prosecution efforts have been moderately successful, prevention remains elusive, as “upstream” structural factors—class, gender, and sexuality

inequalities—remain difficult to target. Individuals who are affected by these factors are not fully served within linear service frameworks. Based on a 12-month study in Kansas City, we find that service providers recognize the limitations of a “one-size-fits all” approach. Using a public health model, our research team conducted a public health surveillance, explored risk and protective factors, and facilitated organizational self-assessments of services. Our findings support a prevention approach that supports a survivor-centered model, which creates new, non-linear or queered avenues of agency and community for trafficking survivors. This model allows survivors to make use of services in moments of vulnerability and opt out of others in moments of resilience. Given the systematic cuts in funding that have affected service providers, this research contends that prevention is cheaper, more effective, and more ethical than relying on prosecutions to curb trafficking. Developing a model that fosters survivor empowerment is a key step toward individual justice and survivor resilience for vulnerable and marginalized populations.



Support Healing

[Moving Towards Self-actualization: A Trauma-Informed and Needs-Focused Approach to the Mental Health Needs of Survivors of Commercial Child Sexual Exploitation](#)

Laser-Maira, J. A., Peach, D., & Hounmenou, C. E. (2019). Moving Towards Self-actualization: A Trauma-Informed and Needs-Focused Approach to the Mental Health Needs of Survivors of Commercial Child Sexual Exploitation. *International Journal of Social Work*, 6(2). <https://doi.org/10.5296/ijsw.v6i2.15198>

Authors: Laser-Maira, Julie Anne; Peach, Donna; Hounmenou, Charles E.

Publication Year: 2019

Summary: This paper critically examines what is constituted as best practice in trauma-informed mental health service delivery to meet the exigent needs of CCSE survivors and provide the resources and support to survivors necessary to attain self-reliance and self-actualization.

Abstract: There is increasing evidence that children who are subject to commercial child sexual exploitation (CCSE) are likely to experience complex mental health needs. Failure to address the trauma experienced by victims of CCSE can lead to suicide attempts, self-harm, and long-term mental health needs (Powell, Asbill, Louis, & Stoklosa, 2018). A ‘trauma-informed’ approach (TIA) creates a responsive environment that improves the motivation of victims of CCSE to seek treatment and service providers to address unmet needs. Merging Maslow’s (1943) hierarchy of needs with a TIA approach provides a comprehensive framework to assess the service requirements necessary to meet CCSE survivors’ needs. Particularly, when Maslow’s hierarchy of needs model is coupled with contemporary extensions, which address our greater understanding of the neurological impact of abuse on physiological well-being greater resilience can be created. Additionally, a TIA instigates a shift from victims of CCSE being viewed as damaged, to an understanding of the impact abusive experiences have had on their development. That approach permits them and others to perceive their “survivorhood” and develop their capacity to achieve self-actualization. This paper critically examines what is constituted as best practice in trauma-informed mental health service delivery to not only meet needs but to support CCSE survivors’ attainment of self-actualization.

[Measures for evaluating sex trafficking aftercare and support services: A systematic review and resource compilation](#)

Graham, L. M., Macy, R. J., Eckhardt, A., Rizo, C. F., & Jordan, B. L. (2019). Measures for evaluating sex trafficking aftercare and support services: A systematic review and resource compilation. *Aggression and Violent Behavior, 47*, 117-136.
doi.org/10.1016/j.avb.2019.04.001

Authors: Graham, Laurie M.; Macy, Rebecca J.; Eckhardt, Amanda; Rizo, Cynthia F.; Jordan, Brooke L.

Publication Year: 2019

Summary: This article considers the research literature addressing resilience and reintegration survivor support services provided by organizations. The authors argue the focus of existing research does not capture the holistic views of well-being, rather it focuses on mental and physical health outcomes only, nor have they been tested with trafficking survivors. The authors recommend testing measures and tailored assessments to capture the diverse needs of survivors of trafficking.

Abstract: Increasingly, organizations are providing services to promote the resilience and reintegration of persons trafficked for sexual exploitation. Unfortunately, services for survivors of trafficking have out-paced the evaluation of such services. However, formative studies exist

on the needs and service outcomes of survivors of trafficking. We undertook a systematic summary of such studies with the aim of compiling the measures and constructs used in this literature. Of the 53 studies reviewed, 22 studies named 34 published measures used to collect data regarding survivors' coping; physical, mental, sexual, and reproductive health; substance use; social support; trafficking-related needs, strengths, and outcomes; and trauma and abuse experiences. Additionally, to gather information on constructs of interest, 18 of the 22 studies included supplemental questions that were not part of a specific measure. Results show sex trafficking research is strongly focused on the physical and mental health needs and service outcomes of survivors. Few studies incorporate holistic views of well-being. Moreover, measures used with this population often have not been tested with survivors of trafficking. We recommend testing measures with this population, conducting holistic assessment of the needs and outcomes of survivors of sex trafficking, and developing tailored measures for various subgroups within this diverse population.

[Entry, Progression, Exit, and Service Provision for Survivors of Sex Trafficking: Implications for Effective Interventions](#)

Hammond, G. C., & McGlone, M. (2014). Entry, Progression, Exit, and Service Provision for Survivors of Sex Trafficking: Implications for Effective Interventions. *Global Social Welfare*, 1(4), 157-168. [doi:10.1007/s40609-014-0010-0](https://doi.org/10.1007/s40609-014-0010-0)

Authors: Hammond, Gretchen Clark; McGlone, Mandy

Publication Year: 2014

Summary: This paper describes the process of entry into sex trafficking, the progression once one is trafficked/prostituted, the process for exiting, and services for victims and survivors. The paper concludes with recommendations for service provision in the arenas of healthcare, social services, child welfare, and law enforcement.

Abstract: Human trafficking continues to evolve as an issue of importance in many communities. The proliferation of human trafficking is worldwide and involves forced labor, often of young persons. This literature review focuses on the form of human trafficking that involves sex trafficking and prostitution. Terms also used to describe this situation include domestic minor sex trafficking (DMST), sex work, child sexual exploitation, and prostitution. This paper focuses on four points of interest: (1) the process of entry into sex trafficking, (2) the progression once one is trafficked/prostituted, (3) the process for exiting, and (4) services for victims/ survivors. The paper concludes with recommendations for service provision, including the arenas of healthcare, social services, child welfare, and law enforcement.

[An Event or an Era? Resources for social sector decision-making in the context of COVID-19](#)

Kasper, G., Marcoux, J., Folmer, K., Burlison, J., Evans, R., Holk, J., DeVera, D. J. (2020). *An Event or an Era? Resources for social sector decision-making in the context of COVID-19*.

Retrieved from

<https://www2.deloitte.com/content/dam/Deloitte/us/Documents/about-deloitte/us-deloitte-monitor-institute-scenarios-for-the-social-sector.pdf>

Authors: Kasper, Gabriel, Marcoux, Justin; Folmer, Kerri; Burlison, Joanna; Evans, Rhonda; Holk, Jennifer; Brayton, Sarah; Kanneganti, Apoorva; Haynesworth, Leah Jordan; DeVera, Danielle Jordan

Publication Year: 2020

Summary: This guide presents various post-COVID-19 scenarios for social sector stakeholders to evaluate their strategic planning, resources, and prepare responses after the world recovers from the pandemic.

Abstract: Many organizations trying to navigate through this moment may find themselves alternately paralyzed or swamped by a crushing number of choices, without much scaffolding to guide their decision-making. This is especially true in the social sector, where the economic crisis has put organizations on tenuous financial footing even as demand for their assistance is skyrocketing. For nonprofits that have managed to weather the initial storm, continued survival and effectiveness will depend on the ability to adapt strategies and operating models to new post-COVID realities, whatever they may look like. And many philanthropic funders, having decided on an initial emergency response, are struggling to figure out what to do next. To help social sector leaders in the United States confront these challenges, the Monitor Institute by Deloitte—the social impact unit of the global professional services organization Deloitte LLP—launched a national effort with pro bono investment from Deloitte Consulting LLP to apply the tools of scenario planning to help funders and nonprofits get on their front foot in preparing for the post-COVID-19 landscape.

[SAFE Court: Results From a 2-year Evaluation of a Problem-Solving Court for Prostituted Offenders in Harris County, TX](#)

Muftić, L. R., & Updegrave, A. H. (2018). *SAFE Court: Results From a 2-year Evaluation of a Problem-Solving Court for Prostituted Offenders in Harris County, TX* (2018-1). Retrieved from <http://www.crimevictimsinstitute.org/publications/?mode=view&item=70>

Authors: Muftić, Lisa R.; Updegrave, Alexander H.

Publication Year: 2018

Summary: This grant report evaluates the efficiency and outcomes of Harris County's SAFE

Court operation and offers recommendations for improvement.

Abstract: As part of the BJA Smart Prosecution grant, an evaluation of SAFE Court's operation and effectiveness was conducted by the court's research partner, Lisa R. Muftić, Ph.D. A combination of qualitative and quantitative research methods were used. Data were collected through direct observation, surveys, program data, and official criminal histories. Two separate samples (prostituted defendants and program stakeholders) helped inform the evaluation of SAFE Court's overall effectiveness. Several types of inferential statistics (descriptive, bivariate, and multivariate) were used to analyze items pertaining to participant characteristics, program implementation, completion, and satisfaction, as well as differences between defendants who did and did not recidivate. An overview of the findings are presented below.

[Aftercare Services for Child Victims of Sex Trafficking: A Systematic Review of Policy and Practice](#)

Muraya, D. N., & Fry, D. (2016). Aftercare Services for Child Victims of Sex Trafficking: A Systematic Review of Policy and Practice. *Trauma Violence Abuse, 17*(2), 204-220.
[doi:10.1177/1524838015584356](https://doi.org/10.1177/1524838015584356)

Authors: Muraya, D. N.; Fry, D.

Publication Year: 2016

Summary: This research literature review of aftercare services revealed three phases of aftercare service provision for child sex trafficking victims, i.e., rescue, recover, and reintegration, in need of an evidence base for policy formation and evaluation as well as further research and better documentation of aftercare service provisions in all three phases to achieve the minimum international standards of care provision.

Abstract: OBJECTIVE: To explore aftercare services provided to child victims of sex trafficking globally based on the results of a systematic review of published and unpublished research, organizational policy, and current practice. This systematic review serves as a first step toward developing best practices for aftercare service providers. METHOD: A systematic search was conducted of four English language databases, two human trafficking resource libraries, and one Internet search engine for journal articles and "grey" literature published between January 2000 and May 2013 on the services offered to child sex trafficking victims globally. The search yielded 15 documents for inclusion in the review. RESULTS: The 15 documents emphasized the need for aftercare service provision to be founded on children's rights and trauma-informed service provision. They recommended delivery practices such as case management and multidisciplinary, multiagency and multinational coordination to ensure the child victims benefit fully from the services. The systematic review revealed that there are three phases to aftercare service provision: rescue, recover, and reintegration. Each of these phases is

characterized by different needs and types of services provided. The recovery phase received the most attention compared to recovery and reintegration phases. CONCLUSION: The literature highlighted that aftercare service provision for child sex trafficking victims is a new area that needs an evidence base from which policy and practice can be formed. There is great need for further research and better documentation of service provision. While this research provides insight into this area, the gap in literature remains wide. The area of aftercare service provision for children who have been trafficked has experienced phenomenal growth within the last 10 years, and with more research and resources being directed to the area, the achievement of international minimum standards of care provision is possible.

[Mental Health Service Needs of Commercially Sexually Exploited Youth: Voices of Survivors and Stakeholders](#)

Robitz, R., Ulloa, E. C., Salazar, M., & Ulibarri, M. D. (2020). Mental Health Service Needs of Commercially Sexually Exploited Youth: Voices of Survivors and Stakeholders. *Violence Vict*, 35(3), 354-362. [doi:10.1891/VV-D-18-00213](https://doi.org/10.1891/VV-D-18-00213)

Authors: Robitz, R.; Ulloa, E. C.; Salazar, M.; Ulibarri, M. D.

Publication Year: 2020

Summary: This study identifies and describes the support services and case management practices desired by commercially sexually exploited survivors and their mental health service providers.

Abstract: Youth who experience commercial sexual exploitation (CSE) have complex mental health needs. This study describes what CSE survivors and stakeholders who work with them desire in mental health services. We conducted semi-structured interviews with 10 CSE survivors 16-20 years old, and 15 community experts on CSE (n = 25). Thematic analyses indicated CSE survivors value mental health services including individual therapy and coping skills, and they wanted providers who are nonjudgmental, and exhibit some level of understanding of CSE. Community stakeholders described skills important for CSE survivors to gain from mental health services including recognition of patterns of victimization, self-worth, and emotion regulation. Both stakeholders and CSE youth desired services that give survivors some control over their treatment and recovery utilizing a trauma-informed approach.

[A longitudinal evaluation of a survivor-mentor program for child survivors of sex trafficking in the United States](#)

Rothman, E. F., Preis, S. R., Bright, K., Paruk, J., Bair-Merritt, M., & Farrell, A. (2020). A longitudinal evaluation of a survivor-mentor program for child survivors of sex

trafficking in the United States. *Child Abuse & Neglect*, 100, 104083.
doi.org/10.1016/j.chiabu.2019.104083

Authors: Rothman, Emily F.; Preis, Sarah. R.; Bright, Katherine; Paruk, Jennifer; Bair-Merritt, Megan; Farrell, Amy

Publication Year: 2020

Summary: This study identifies the CSE-survivor mentorship program as a useful reintegration intervention approach to improve survivor well-being, diminish delinquent behavior, drug use, and exploitation.

Abstract: BACKGROUND: Commercial sexual exploitation (CSE) of children is a significant public health and criminal justice problem, but there are few evaluated models of CSE mentorship service. OBJECTIVES: To assess whether youth who participated in a CSE survivor-mentor program evidenced changes in CSE victimization, dating abuse victimization, health, delinquency, social support, and coping during the year following their enrollment in the program. PARTICIPANTS: 41 youth who were CSE-experienced at baseline (72%) or determined very high risk, 11-18 years old, 95% female, 58% heterosexual, 29% White, 29% Hispanic, and 42% other races/ethnicities. SETTING: An urban city in the Northeast United States. METHODS: We used a one-group repeated measures design and a GEE analysis. Data were collected at baseline, six months after baseline (71% follow-up) and 12 months after baseline (68% follow-up). RESULTS: At baseline 72% could be characterized as CSE-experienced, while at 6 months the percentage decreased to 24% ($p<0.001$) and at 12 months to 14% ($p<0.001$). After 6 months of receiving survivor-mentor services, youth were less likely to have experienced CSE, engaged in sexually explicit behavior (SEB), used illicit drugs, engaged in delinquent behavior, been arrested or detained by police, and they had better social support and coping skills. After 12 months, youth were less likely to have experienced CSE, to have engaged in delinquent behavior, be arrested or detained by police, and had improved coping skills. CONCLUSION: Findings demonstrate that youth who received survivor-mentor services from MLCM experienced improved well-being and less drug use, delinquent behavior, and exploitation.

[Trauma-Informed Care for Survivors of Human Trafficking: A State of the Field 2019](#)

Santos, J., Chakoian-Lifvergren, K., & Sethi, R. (2019). *Trauma-Informed Care for Survivors of Human Trafficking: A State of the Field 2019*.

Authors: Santos, Jessica; Chakoian-Lifvergren, Kaitie; Sethi, Resham

Publication Year: 2019

Summary: This report considers the trauma-informed practices of 157 service providers in the United States in the context of relevant research literature and offers recommendations to

improve practices in the field of survivor support services.

Abstract: Human trafficking is a serious problem in the United States and worldwide. Over the past five years, human trafficking cases have been reported in all 50 states and the District of Columbia. Many survivors and their families experience trauma over their lives and across generations as a result of this form of violence. For the past 20+ years in the human trafficking service provider community, U.S.-based organizations have been creating trauma-informed policies and practices to establish safe and empowering environments for survivors seeking services. There are also countless examples, both historical and contemporary, of survivor-led resistance and resilience in the face of trauma. We recognize that the day-to-day pressing needs of survivors are constant and paramount, and that developing more efficient and effective service-delivery techniques can reduce additional harm and improve lives. This report recognizes and highlights trauma-informed practices from 157 service providers, puts them in context of relevant literature in the field, and identifies areas in which organizations and the field as a whole can improve.



Bring Justice

Capturing Human Trafficking Victimization Through Crime Reporting

Farrell, A., Dank, M., Kafafian, M., Lockwood, S., Pfeffer, R., Hughes, A., & Vincent, K. (2019). *Capturing Human Trafficking Victimization Through Crime Reporting*. Retrieved from Office of Justice Programs' National Criminal Justice Reference Service: <https://nij.ojp.gov/library/publications/capturing-human-trafficking-victimization-through-crime-reporting>

Authors: Farrell, Amy; Dank, Meredith; Kafafian, Matthew; Lockwood, Sarah; Pfeffer, Rebecca; Hughes, Andrea; Vincent, Kyle

Publication Year: 2019

Summary: This study examined how local law enforcement agencies in three U.S. communities

classify human trafficking cases that they identify through their internal records management and external crime reporting programs.

Abstract: In order to determine how human trafficking cases are identified and reported by the police, the research team examined just over 600 human trafficking investigations and interviewed law enforcement and crime-reporting personnel in each study site. Interviews were also conducted with victim service providers and non-law enforcement agencies in each community regarding how they identify and report human trafficking victimizations. The research team determined how often human trafficking victims are identified across multiple administrative data systems in each community. Using Multiple System Estimation (MSE) procedures that compare information about identified human trafficking victims in the data systems of multiple providers in the three communities, the research team identified how often human trafficking victims are identified across multiple administrative data systems. MSE procedures were used to estimate the number of sex and labor trafficking victims in each study community. This gauged the degree to which law enforcement data on human trafficking offenses represent the population of human trafficking victims in a community. One of the 10 major findings summarized from this study is that given the issues associated with the identification and reporting of human trafficking, it is likely that the Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) program undercounts both the human trafficking victims who are identified by local law enforcement due to offense reporting problems and undercounts human trafficking victims in local communities.

Urban Institute, “Bending Towards Justice: Perceptions of Justice Among Human Trafficking Survivors,” a set of four articles from one study.

1. [*Bending Towards Justice: Perceptions of Justice among Human Trafficking Survivors*](#)

Hussemann, J., Owens, C., Love, H., Yu, L., McCoy, E., Flynn, A., & Woods, K. (2018). *Bending Towards Justice: Perceptions of Justice among Human Trafficking Survivors* (2015-VF-GX-0108). Retrieved from <https://nij.ojp.gov/library/publications/bending-towards-justice-perceptions-justice-among-human-trafficking-survivors>

Authors: Hussemann, Jeanette; Owens, Colleen; Love, Hanna; Yu, Lilly, McCoy, Evelyn; Flynn, Abbey; Woods, Kyla

Publication Year: 2018

Summary: This study identified gaps in knowledge about how survivors of human trafficking and stakeholders involved in their cases perceive justice in managing their cases, with attention to the potential for using alternative models of justice in these cases. Four articles were produced from the study each focusing on four different aspects of the findings.

Abstract: This study addresses gaps in knowledge about how survivors and stakeholders

perceive justice in cases of human trafficking and the potential of alternative models of justice, including procedural, restorative, and transitional justice, to enhance survivors' experiences and the outcomes of their trafficking cases. Most survivors did not endorse traditional forms of retributive justice for their traffickers, such as incarceration, and instead felt justice could be best achieved through prevention. Survivors' perceptions of justice for themselves included the ability to move on from the trafficking experience and find autonomy and empowerment through achieving self-defined goals. Survivors and stakeholders both expressed concern with the justice system's ability to help survivors achieve their desired outcomes; however, survivors and social service providers did find promise in alternative forms of justice to achieve individualized goals. This study relies on semi-structured interview data collected with 80 survivors and 100 social service and criminal justice stakeholders across eight diverse sites in the United States. Findings offer the most comprehensive understanding of survivor experiences with social service providers and criminal justice stakeholders and criminal justice processes to date.

2. [Delivering Justice for Human Trafficking Survivors Implications for Practice](#)

McCoy, E., Owens, C., Yu, L., Love, H., & Hussemann, J. (2018). *Delivering Justice for Human Trafficking Survivors Implications for Practice*. Retrieved from <https://nij.ojp.gov/library/publications/delivering-justice-human-trafficking-survivors-implications-practice>

3. [Comparing Narratives of Justice How Survivors, Criminal Justice Stakeholders, and Service Providers Perceive Justice in Human Trafficking Cases](#)

Love, H., Hussemann, J., Yu, L., McCoy, E., & Owens, C. (2018). *Comparing Narratives of Justice How Survivors, Criminal Justice Stakeholders, and Service Providers Perceive Justice in Human Trafficking Cases*. Retrieved from <https://nij.ojp.gov/library/publications/comparing-narratives-justice-how-survivors-criminal-justice-stakeholders-and>

4. [Justice in Their Own Words: Perceptions and Experiences of \(In\)Justice among Human Trafficking Survivors](#)

Love, H., Hussemann, J., Yu, L., McCoy, E., & Owens, C. (2018). *Justice in Their Own Words: Perceptions and Experiences of (In)Justice among Human Trafficking Survivors*. Retrieved from <https://nij.ojp.gov/library/publications/justice-their-own-words-perceptions-and-experiences-injustice-among-human>