

Moving Beyond the Stereotypes: Commercial Exploitation and Domestic Trafficking of Children and Youth



Training Principles

- Relevant
- Applicable
- Survivor-Informed
- Trauma Informed
- Open

Language Advocacy

Teen Prostitute

Victim of Human
Trafficking

Exploited Person



“Teen Prostitution”

vs.



**Commercial Sexual
Exploitation of Children**

Language & Sensitivity

Language & Sensitivity

Teen Prostitute

- resistant
- “easy”
- drug abuse/addict
- “making money”
- choice
- kid involved in the system(s)
- “ho” “slut” “thot”
- stilettos/mini-skirts/fishnets
- **Who’s problem?** Law enforcement

Commercially Sexually Exploited Child

- needs help
- victim
- vulnerable
- needs/wants to be rescued
- abused
- neglected
- controlled by adult
- trapped
- **Who’s problem?** Everyone’s

Language & Sensitivity

Changing the language...

- Reframes the issue as a form of child abuse.
 - Expresses the philosophy that sexually exploited children deserve support services instead of jail sentences.
 - More accurately represents the scope of the issue and the reality of exploited youth's experiences.
 - Creates a common language to move toward facilitating a community response plan.
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What is the Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children (CSEC)?

“It’s not a choice, no one just wakes up and wants to do this. You can’t just walk away...”

- CSEC Survivor

CSEC is....

The commercial sexual exploitation of children (CSEC) is:

Sexual abuse involving a child in exchange for something of value, or the **promise thereof**, to the child or another person or persons.

- Treating a child as a commercial and sexual object.
- A form of violence against children.

Adapted from The Stockholm Declaration and Agenda for Action, 1996

Under U.S. federal law, any minor under the age of **18** years induced into commercial sex is a victim of sex trafficking—regardless of whether or not the trafficker used force, fraud, or coercion.

What is Human Trafficking?

The recruitment, transportation, transfer, harboring or receipt of a person, by means of the threat or use of force, fraud coercion, or deception for the purpose of exploitation.

- *Trafficking Victims Protection Act (Federal Law)*

CSEC includes:

- **street exploitation**
- **pornography**
- **stripping**
- **erotic/nude massage**
- **escort services**
- **phone sex lines**
- **private parties**
- **gang and organized crime-based exploitation**
- **familial exploitation**
- **sex tourism**
- **forms of Internet-based exploitation**

Labor Trafficking includes:

- Nail Salons
- Door to Door Magazine sales
- Selling Perfume/Cologne in parking lots/on the street
- Nannies/Housekeepers
- Any labor that is done against someone's will

- *"Debt Labor" is common*

The AMP Model

HOW TRAFFICKING BREAKS DOWN.



ACTION

- RECRUITS
- TRANSPORTS
- PROVIDES
- OBTAINS/ATTEMPTS



MEANS

- FORCE
- FRAUD
- COERCION



PURPOSE

- COMMERICAL
SEX ACTS
- LABOR SERVICES

What is the difference?

Commercial Sex



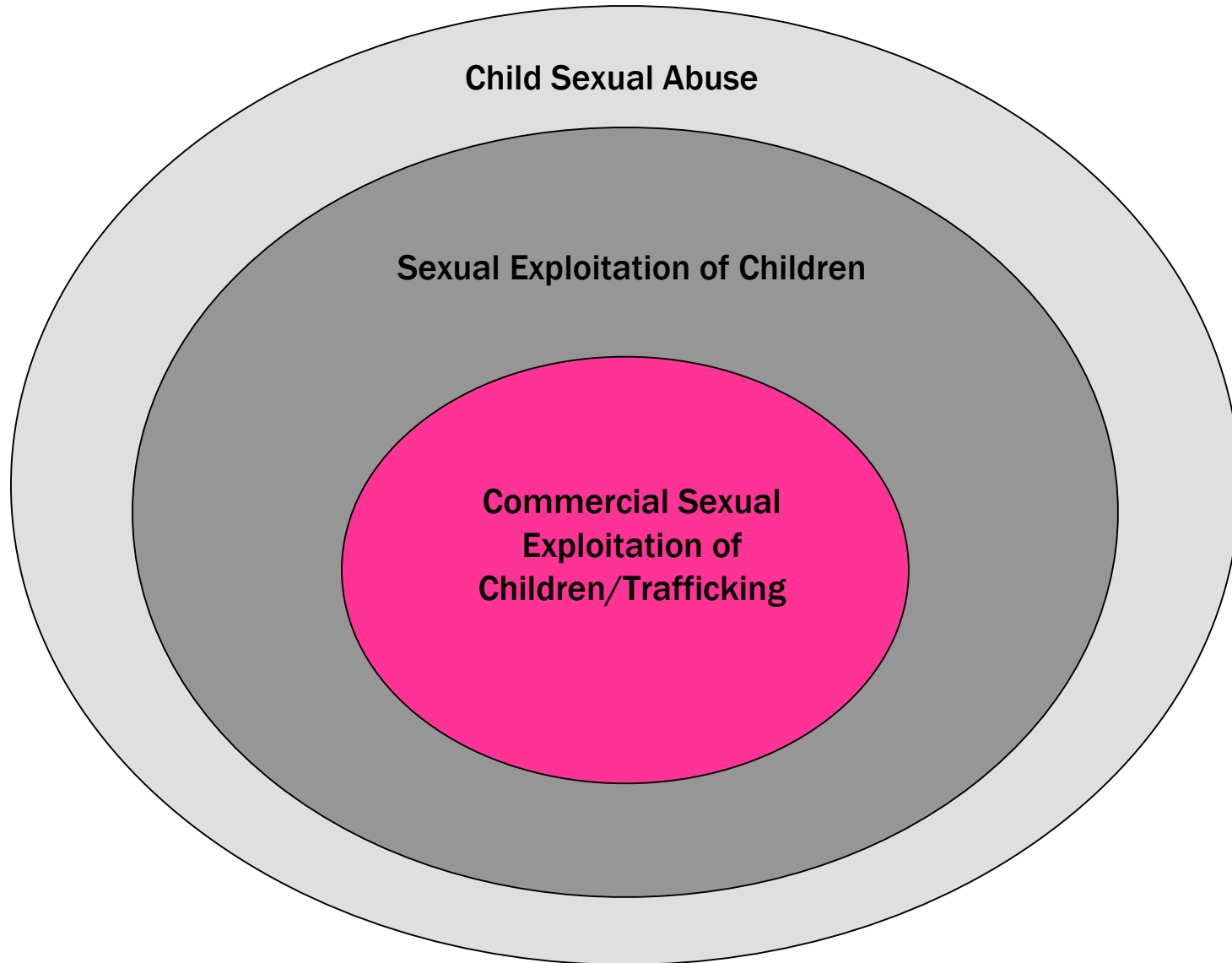
Exploitation

- Power
- Authority
- Privilege

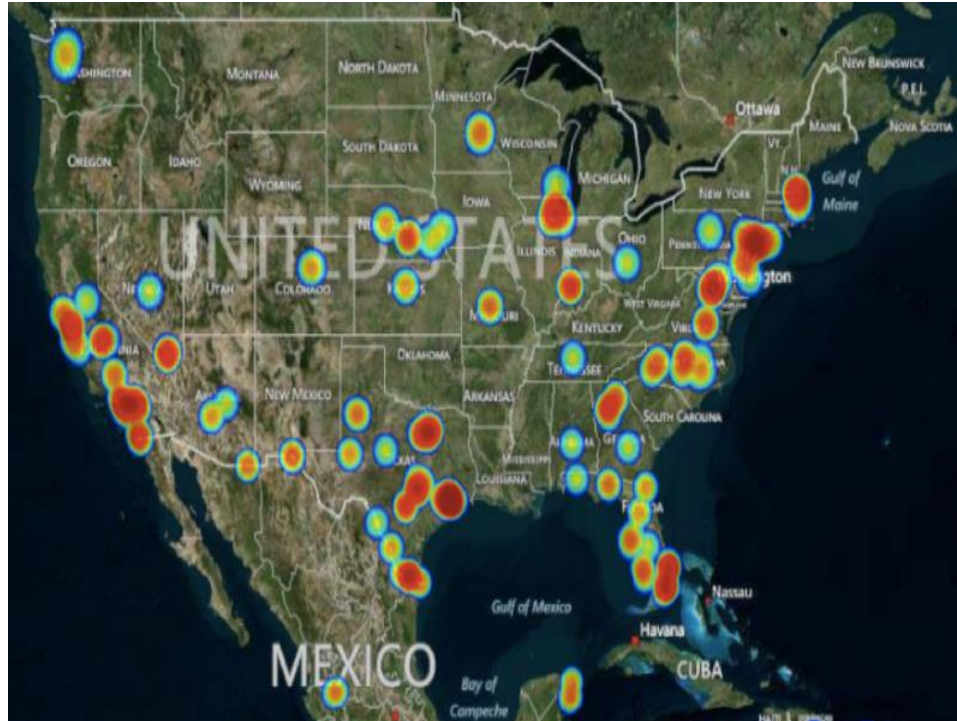
Trafficking

- Force
- Fraud
- Coercion

Intersections of Abuse

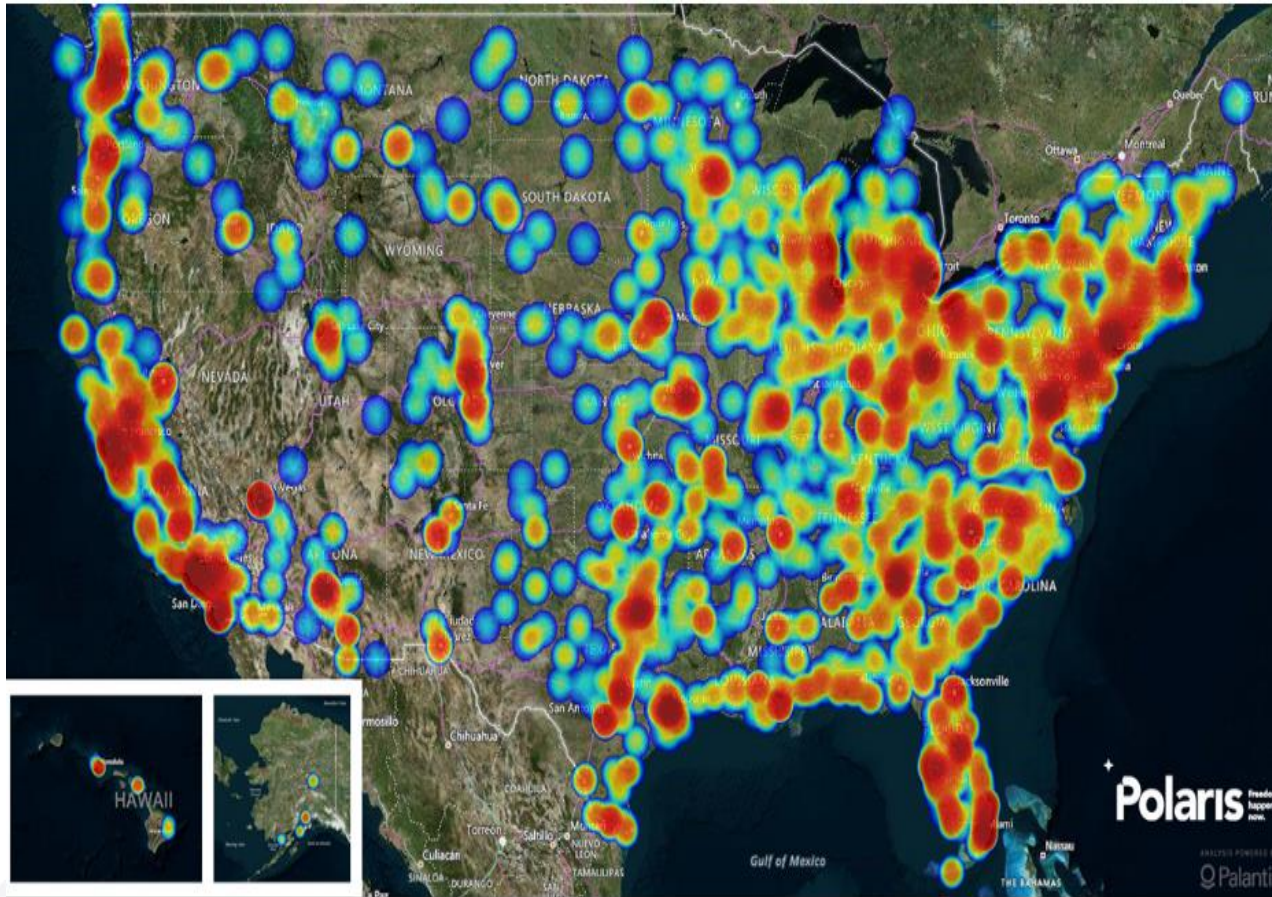


In the United States - 2016



Polaris Project, 2016

In the United States - 2017



Polaris Project, 2017

Regional Trafficking Flows



t, 2016



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Common statistics used

- At least **100,000 to 300,000** youth are at risk for **commercial sexual exploitation annually in the U.S.** (Estes and Wiener, 2001)
- The most common age of entry into the commercial sex industry in the U.S. is **12-14** years old. (US Department of Justice, Child Exploitation and Obscenity Section)

*These numbers are often used incorrectly, without context or explanation of how limited or unreliable these numbers might be

Common 'statistics' used

- **1 in 3 children will be trafficked within 72 hours of running away from home**
- **The Superbowl is the biggest trafficking 'event' in the country**
- **The average life expectancy of a trafficked girl in the US is 7 years**

None of these are factual and are actually harmful to the issue.

Myths Associated with Human Trafficking

Myth #1:

**All Prostitutes Are Willing
Participants**

Myths Associated with Human Trafficking

Myth #2:

**All Immigrants Smuggled
into the United States
Enter Willingly**

Myths Associated with Human Trafficking

Myth #3:

**All Participants Involved in
Human Trafficking Are
Criminals**

Sex as an industry



Addressing Demand

We know children are being bought and sold throughout the U.S so....

who is actually buying children for sex?



Addressing Demand

Pedophile

An adult who over a period of at least six months, has recurrent intense sexual urges and sexually arousing fantasies involving sexual activity with a prepubescent child or children (generally age 13 or younger).

Ephebophilia/Hebephilia

Adult who has a strong or exclusive attraction to post-pubescent child/adolescent.

Addressing Demand

Situational Abusers

Adults who use children for sex not because they have a predisposition to do so but **just because they want to or find themselves in a situation where it is possible**. Such men engage in the criminal activity of sex with minors (under-18s) without necessarily feeling any real sexual attraction towards them.

May be family men with regular partners and in every way 'normal' lives. For this reason they are particularly difficult to identify and **often are protected by those around them** who find it impossible to accept that 'Mr. Normal' next door - or their husband/brother/son - could possibly have sex with children.

Factors Influencing Demand

Presence of Adult Sex Industry

“Without equivocation....the presence of pre-existing adult prostitution markets contributes measurably to the creation of secondary sexual markets in which children are sexually exploited. [W]e find no support for the legalization of prostitution in the U.S., especially given the relationship that we can confirm to exist between adult and juvenile sexual exploitation”.

Factors Influencing Demand

Acceptance of Violence Towards Individuals in the Sex Industry

A Canadian commission found that women in the commercial sex industry are 40 times more likely to be murdered than their counterparts.

Factors Influencing Demand

No Perceived Consequences

According to a report released by the DOJ in 2012, of the 62,000+ arrests made related to “prostitution and commercialized vice” in 2010, over 43,000 of those arrests were of women, compared to 19,000 of men, a number which includes buyers, exploiters and males in the commercial sex industry.

Factors Influencing Demand

Dehumanization of Women in the Sex Industry

"They were objects. In my mind, they never had families or anything."

Joel Rifkin, in a statement to the police in admitting to the murders of 17 prostituted women, many of whose names he could not remember, 1994.

Factors Influencing Demand

Dehumanization of Women in the Sex Industry

"I picked prostitutes as my victims because I hate most prostitutes and I did not want to pay them for sex. I also picked prostitutes as victims because they were easy to pick up, without being noticed. I knew they would not be reported missing right away, and might never be reported missing. I picked prostitutes because I thought I could kill as many of them as I wanted without getting caught."

Gary Ridgway, (The 'Green River Killer') in a statement to the Court in which he pled guilty to murdering 48 women and girls, 2003.

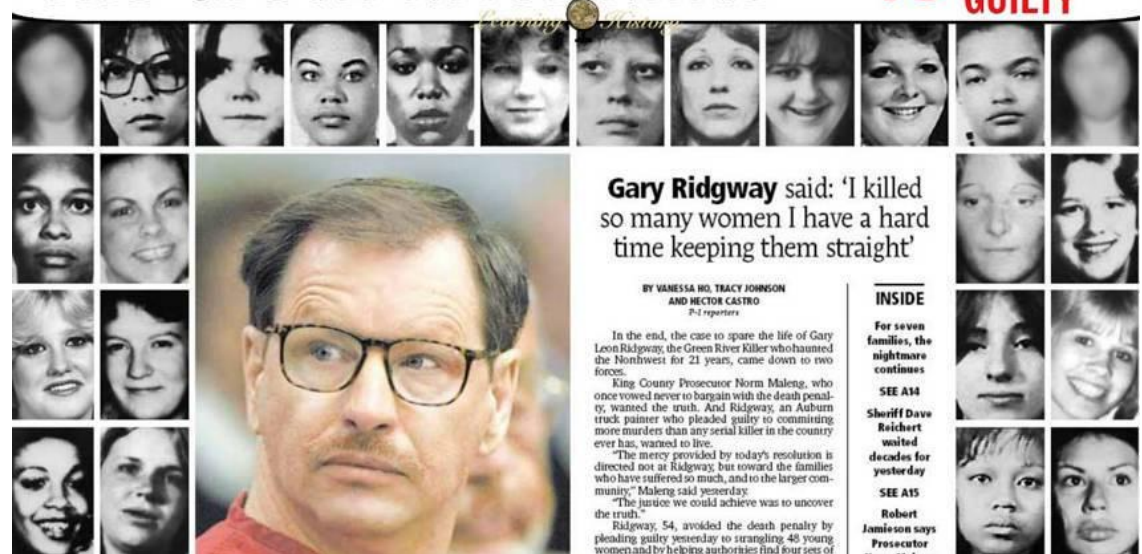
Factors Influencing Demand

Dehumanization of CSEC Victims

Of Gary Ridgway's 48 admitted victims, **27** of those victims were **between the ages of 15-18 years old**. The Green River Killer was therefore one of the largest child serial killers in the US ever, and the largest known killer of CSEC victims, yet the fact that many of his victims were children/youth is never mentioned because they were viewed as 'prostitutes'.

The Green River Killer

48 TIMES GUILTY



Gary Ridgway said: 'I killed so many women I have a hard time keeping them straight'

BY VANESSA HO, TRACY JOHNSON AND NECTOR CASTRO
PHOTOGRAPHS BY JEFFREY M. HARRIS

In the end, the case to spare the life of Gary Leon Ridgway, the Green River Killer who haunted the Northwest for 21 years, came down to two forces.

King County Prosecutor Norm Maleng, who once vowed never to bargain with the death penalty, wanted the truth. And Ridgway, an Auburn truck painter who pleaded guilty to committing more murders than any serial killer in the country ever has, wanted to live.

"The mercy provided by today's resolution is directed not at Ridgway, but toward the families who have suffered so much, and to the larger community," Maleng said yesterday.

"The justice we could achieve was to uncover the truth."

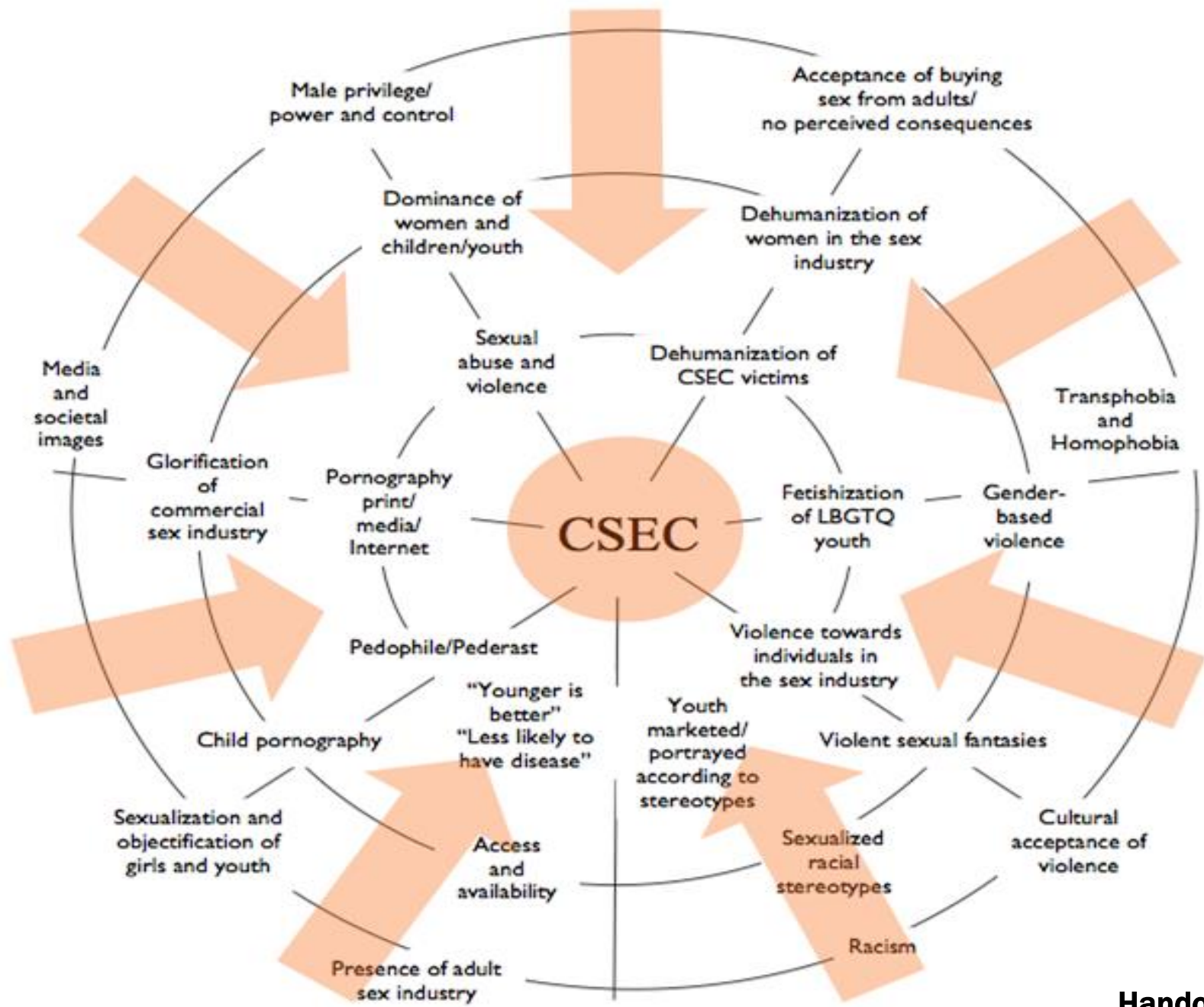
Ridgway, 54, avoided the death penalty by pleading guilty yesterday to strangling 48 young women and by helping authorities find four sets of

INSIDE

For seven families, the nightmare continues
SEE A14

Sheriff Dave Reichert waited decades for yesterday
SEE A15

Robert Jamieson says Prosecutor



Demand Economy

- ❑ 1 out of 7 men
- ❑ 743,000 PA who purchase sex or continue to purchase sex
- ❑ 18-23 first experience buying
- ❑ 75% Occasionalists, less than 3x a year
- ❑ 20% Regulars, upwards of 15x a year
- ❑ 5% Habituals, 75+ transactions a year

County or Region's Adult Male Population X .14 = best estimate of annual sex buyers

Demand – Buyers' Social Context

47% of prostitutes in one study said they had been harmed by men who tried to force their victims to do things the men **had seen in porn**

--Melissa Farley (2009)
“Men who buy sex: Who they buy and what they know”

16% of men in the U.S. have paid for sex

49.2% of sex buyers in one sample had never discussed their buying of sex with anyone else

--(Demand Abolition.org)

How are youth brought in to “the life”?

RECRUITMENT

Youth are **targeted** for exploitation through:



They are **recruited** in places where they gather, including:

- parks and shopping plazas
- bus stops and train stations
- government assistance offices



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Children at risk for recruitment into CSEC are children who:

- Are under 18 years old
- Walk to school or to the store alone
- Own or have access to a computer
- Are attracted to consumer goods
- Desire to develop romantic relationships
- Sometimes feel insecure
- Feel misunderstood
- Fight with their parents
- Sometimes feel their parents don't care
- Want more independence
- Test boundaries and take risks

Question:

According to this, who is at risk for recruitment into CSEC?

ALL CHILDREN

**But we know there are children
who are much higher risk...**

Risk Factors

Individual:

events in, or characteristics of, an individual's life

Environmental:

come from a child's neighborhood or community

Social:

the foundation set up in our culture that makes CSEC possible or ways in which our society promotes or perpetuates sexual exploitation

Multiple studies estimate that...

70 to 90 percent of commercially sexually exploited children have a prior history of child sexual abuse.

1. Bagley, C. & Young, L. (1987). *Juvenile Prostitution and Child Sexual Abuse: A Controlled Study*. Canadian Journal of Community Mental Health.
2. *Annual Report*. (1991). Council for Prostitution Alternatives. Portland, Oregon.
3. Murphy, Patricia. (1993). *Making Connections: Women, Work, and Abuse*. Paul M. Deutsch Press, Florida.

National Trends

Loyola University New Orleans'
Modern Slavery Research
Project interviewed:



runaway and homeless
youth across
the country

Of those youth, they found:

19% experienced some form of
trafficking

14% had been involved in
sex trafficking

8% had been involved in
labor trafficking

3% had been involved in both
**sex and labor
trafficking**

91%
had been
approached
by someone
offering opportunity
for income that
was "too good to
be true."

Child Welfare and CSEC Risk

978 allegations of human trafficking in Florida's child welfare system were made in 2014, involving 775 victims. This figure is up from 480 allegations in 2011. (Florida Department of Children and Families

Over 70% of girls and young women served by GEMS have been involved in the child welfare system prior to their recruitment

Girls Educational and Mentoring Services

Child Welfare and CSEC Risk

130 victims of sex trafficking were identified in Connecticut in 2014. 98% of these victims were involved with the child welfare system in some manner. (Connecticut Department of Children and Families)

74% of Child Advocacy Centers in the Midwest region have served Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children (CSEC) victims. However, only 13% had policies and procedures in place specific to CSEC needs and 91% of respondents reported having no funding for CSEC victims. (Midwest Regional Child Advocacy Center)

Identifying Survivors of Human Trafficking

- Social service providers play important role identifying and helping trafficking Survivors
 - While trafficking is largely hidden social problem, Survivors are in plain sight if you know what to look for
 - Very few places where someone from outside has opportunity to interact with victim
-

Can Anything Be Done?

Legislative Responses to Trafficking: TVPA

TVPA of 2000 defines “severe forms of trafficking in persons” in this two-tiered definition:

- Sex trafficking in which a commercial sex act is induced by force, fraud, or coercion, **or in which the person induced to perform such an act has not attained 18 years of age**; or,
- The recruitment, harboring, transportation, provision, or obtaining of a person for labor or services, through the use of force, fraud, or coercion for the purposes of subjection to involuntary servitude, peonage, debt bondage, or slavery.

Legislative Responses to Trafficking: Safe Harbor

“Safe Harbor laws are intended to address the inconsistent treatment of children, raise awareness about children who have been commercially sexually exploited, and ensure that these victims [are] provided with services rather than a criminal conviction.”

Fundamental components:

- **Legal Protection**
- **Provision of Services**

Legislative Responses to Trafficking: Vacating Convictions

- **State-level statute, first enacted in New York State in 2010, which provides for the vacating of convictions in which:**

“the arresting charge was loitering for the purpose of engaging in a prostitution offense provided that the defendant was not alleged to be loitering for the purpose of patronizing a prostitute or promoting prostitution [...] and the defendant’s participation in the offense was a result of having been a victim of sex trafficking under the penal law or the TVPA.”

Legislative Responses to Trafficking: Pennsylvania Safe Harbor

- **Enacted October 2018**

Sponsored by Senator Stewart Greenleaf, Senate Bill 554, known as Safe Harbor, creates new safeguards for children of human trafficking, including:

- **Creating immunity for victims of human trafficking and sexual exploitation for certain crimes;**
- **Directing the Department of Human Services to coordinate specialized services for sexually exploited children, in conjunction with county agencies;**
- **Requiring training for law enforcement on how to identify and help victims;**
- **Establishing the Safe Harbor for Sexually Exploited Children Fund to support care for victims and to prevent human trafficking.**

How to Respond!

Interactions:

- Be casual
- Isolate when possible
- Ask careful questions related to indicators
- Don't call/text without explicit permission
- Check YOUR choices!

Victim-Centered Approach:

- Reassurance of help
- Build trust & rapport
- Be conscious – *they are NOT criminals, but don't identify as victims*
- Relationship patience
- Advocacy for collaboration – unified!

Messages:

- We are here to help.
- Your safety is our first priority.
- You have a right to live without being abused.
- You have rights.
- Help is available.

Wrap Up

Any additional questions?





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