

The Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children: A Reference Guide



Alisha K. Morton, BA, EMPA

**This is dedicated to all of the young children and teens out there who are in
“the life” and do not have a voice.**

Alisha K. Morton

stopcsecnow@gmail.com

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Introduction

This reference guide provides a comprehensive breakdown of the issue of commercial sexual exploitation of children (CSEC) specifically in Portland, Oregon and its surrounding areas. It was written specifically for those working in the public sector who may knowingly or unknowingly come in contact with CSEC victims and perpetrators. In completing research for this guide, it became obvious that there was very little literature and resources on CSEC focused on the Pacific Northwest. My passion for empowering young women coupled with the lack of literature and practical information on CSEC in our community inspired me to develop this comprehensive reference guide.

Information contained in this guide is based on literature published by national organizations that work to combat CSEC, government agencies, interviews of professionals in the Portland area who work in some area of CSEC and information from the numerous workshops and trainings I have attended. The intent of this guide is to raise awareness by providing pertinent information on CSEC for public sector employees to help identify the signs of CSEC at their workplace or in their community. My hope is that with a heightened awareness, we as public sector employees can help combat this horrific crime that claims the lives of young girls and teens in our community every day.

Goals and Objectives

Goal: After reading this resource guide, public sector employees will have an understanding and heightened awareness of CSEC and a basic understanding of the multitude of interrelated components involved. They will also be able to utilize the guide for future reference.

Objective: Public sector employees will be able to identify, assess, work and refer CSEC victims to the appropriate resources that support them in breaking away from the CSEC lifestyle as well as identifying perpetrators and notifying the appropriate professionals.

What is CSEC?

The Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children (CSEC) is defined by the federal Trafficking Victims Protection Act (TVPA) as the recruitment, harboring, transportation, provision, or obtaining of a person for the purpose of a commercial sex act where such an act is induced by force, fraud, or coercion, or in which the person induced to perform such act has not attained 18 years of age. The term “commercial sex act” is also defined by the TVPA as the giving or receiving of anything of value (money, drugs, shelter, food, clothes, etc.) to any person in exchange for a sex act (Shared Hope International, 2009). Of key importance to understanding domestic minor sex trafficking is the understanding that a child under 18 years of age is automatically considered a victim of “severe forms of trafficking” due to the age alone. No proof of force, fraud, or coercion in the case of sex trafficking of a minor is required. Trafficking is a crime of *exploitation*” (Shared Hope International, 2009) and is a market-driven criminal industry that is based on the principle of supply and demand.

CSEC Includes:

- street prostitution
- pornography
- stripping
- erotic/nude massage
- escort services
- phone sex lines
- private parties
- gang-based prostitution
- interfamilial pimping
- forms of internet based exploitation

(GEMS, 2010)

Reframing the Language

The words society chooses to label something have a profound effect on how we view that particular person/issue. The general public and the media have historically labelled sexually exploited youth with countless degrading and dehumanizing terms (2010, Lloyd). The word “prostitute” brings up images of a woman who chooses the lifestyle and seemingly enjoys it otherwise she would get out. The reality is, is that every child, teen or adult who is in “the life” is a victim. It is important that our choice of words reflect their experience and give credibility to the violence and trauma they have endured. Therefore we refer to those “in the life” as **victims/survivors**, not prostitutes or any other derogatory name that has become common and accepted in society today.

Another word that has created conversation within the CSEC arena due to racial stereotyping is the word “pimp.” The word, generally speaking, brings up images of a young African American male dressed in fancy clothes, driving a nice car, with lots of young woman surrounding him. Unfortunately, due to the media, this image is reinforced and glamorized in the entertainment industry in movies and music. If we remember that the definition of sex

trafficking is a commercial sex act which is induced by force, fraud, or coercion, or in which the person induced to perform such act has not attained 18 years of age, then this will also include the person who sells child pornography on the internet, or the mother that allows men to have sex with her daughter in exchange for drugs, or the strip club owner who hires underage girls and permits sex trafficking behind the scenes. Therefore, it is important to reframe the word “pimp” as not the image glamorized in Hollywood but as anybody who forces a child to perform sexual acts. For the purpose of this reference guide the words trafficker and pimp will be used interchangeably, while most pimps/traffickers are men, it is not unheard of for women who are victims of sex trafficking to become traffickers themselves.

The Facts:

- Estimated 200,000-300,000 children become victims of CSEC per year in the United States (CSEC: Clinicians’ Opportunities For Intervention, n.d.)
- Approximately 30% of CSEC victims were first pimped by a family member.
- Girls as young as 9 have been rescued from CSEC (CSEC: Clinicians’ Opportunities For Intervention, n.d.)
- Male and transgender youth are also at risk of CSEC but less likely to work with pimps
- CSEC is associated with urban areas but recruitment of victims from the suburbs is steadily increasing across the U.S. Not only is it increasing in the suburbs but also in smaller cities and rural areas as well.
- CSEC is an “underground” or “low profile” crime and can be difficult to detect therefore specialized training to recognize and investigate CSEC is needed.
- Research has revealed that CSEC takes place at three levels: local exploitation by one or a few individuals, small regional networks involving multiple adults and children, and large national or international sex crime networks where children are traded and sold as commodities (National Institute of Justice, 2007).
- Gangs have turned to sex trafficking as it is much more profitable than selling guns or drugs that can only be sold once.
- Humans are now the third most lucrative commodity traded illegally, after drugs and guns (“Sex on the Auction Block,” 2004)”

- 1 out of every 3 teens on the street will be approached by an exploiter within 48 hours of leaving home(National Incidence Studies of Missing, Abducted, Runaway and Thrown-away Children, 2013).
- The internet has contributed significantly to CSEC by removing the geographical barriers and making it more difficult for law enforcement to track (H.E.A.T., 2013).
- A history of physical and sexual abuse is common among victims
- “65% of the johns [buyers] that go on the Internet are more responsive if the ads have age descriptors like “young” or “barely legal” attached to them ”(McCullough, 2007).
- 77% of prostituted adults were trafficked into the trade as children (traffickinghop.org, 2013).
- The human trafficking industry earns more than \$32 billion per year(traffickinghope.org, 2013).
- The average life expectancy of an exploited child is seven years after starting in the sex trafficking life: homicide and HIV/AIDS account for a majority of deaths(California Child Welfare Council, 2013)

Myths and Stereotypes of CSEC Victims

Children and youth choose to enter the sex trade.

Children in the commercial sex industry are “bad kids.”

Children in the commercial sex industry like to have lots of sex.

Children/youth lure and take advantage of unsuspecting men.

All children/youth in the commercial sex industry are drug addicts.

Sexual exploitation is work.

Youth make a lot of money in the commercial sex industry.

Being in “the life” can be exciting and glamorous.

Sexually exploited children/youth have power and control within the commercial sex industry.

All pimps are male.

Only girls are victims of CSEC.

Sexually exploited youth don't leave because they like the commercial sex industry.

CSEC is a victimless crime.

CSEC is not a big problem in the U.S.

(GEMS, 2010)

Facts Pertaining Specifically to Portland and Oregon

Portland has been portrayed in the media as the “hub” of sex trafficking on the west coast. Some argue that it is not quite as bad as the media portrays it, but due to the crime being “low profile” it makes it difficult to get true statistical data that would provide an accurate depiction of the prevalence of the crime. What we do know for sure is that Portland is a destination spot for sex trafficking along the west coast trafficking circuit. Some believe that what makes Portland particularly conducive to sex trafficking is the high number of adult entertainment businesses, high volume of homeless youth and Oregon’s relatively lenient laws on purchasing sex. The following is a list facts pertaining specifically to Portland.

- Many buyers are local and the I-5 corridor is heavily traveled.
- Portland has the highest number of adult entertainment establishments per capita than any other city in the United States.
- Four to five years ago it was more common to see young girls walking along SE 82nd Ave., but due to the concentrated efforts by police to deal with this has resulted in it being driven more underground, such as use of the internet, chat rooms, etc. (Officer Mike Grieger, Portland Police Human Trafficking Unit on OPB radio, 2013). The use of the internet has created anonymity for buyers, access to more customers and at a very low cost to the traffickers and victims.
- Currently, minor victims of sex trafficking can be charged with prostitution but practice is changing to view these youth as victims and refer them to services.
- Currently in the state of Oregon, buying sex from a minor without the actual sexual act is a misdemeanor.
- In Oregon, soliciting sex from a minor carries a \$10,000 for first time offenders and \$20,000 on the second.

Common Terminology-*Terms are slang and change frequently

Automatic

The continued exploitation of sex trafficking victim when a trafficker/pimp is out of town or in custody. The money earned by the victim is sent to the pimp or he will appoint someone to collect it.

Bottom bitch

A victim who has earned the trust of the pimp and has been appointed by him to supervise the other victims, report rule violations, and sometimes help inflict punishment upon them and assists in recruiting other girls.

Caught a case

A pimp or prostituted person has been arrested and charged with a crime (Shared Hope International, 2013),

Circuit or Track

An area known for prostitution activity. It can be a specific street or a series of cities that victims are trafficked, for example the West Coast circuit of San Diego, Los Angeles, San Francisco, Portland, Seattle, Vancouver, B.C. It can also refer to a chain of states which victims are moved through (Shared Hope International, 2013).

Choose or Choose Up

The process by which a different pimp takes “ownership” of a victim. Choosing up actually occurs simply by making eye contact with another pimp (which is why eye contact with another pimp is strictly prohibited). If the original pimp wants the victim back, he must pay a fee to the new pimp. It is the victim, however, who is then required to “work” to pay restitution to her original pimp. Usually the debt is increased as a penalty for the disrespect of the original pimp that “choosing up” represents (Shared Hope International, 2013)

Daddy

This is typically the name victims call their pimps although this term is being used less often (Shared Hope International, 2013)

Date, Trick, Elbow, Lick

Service provided to a buyer/john.

Fly boy

Refers to traffickers on the move, doing business, working the girls, etc.

Gorilla (or Guerilla) Pimp

One who controls his victims almost entirely through violence (Shared Hope International, 2013).

In the corner

Consequence given to victims if they do not follow the pimp's directives. This involves standing in a corner for hours at a time until they pass out from fatigue.

Out of Pocket

A term used to describe when a woman or girl breaks "the rules" by making eye contact with another pimp.

P or Papa

Replacing the word "Daddy"

Pimp circle

The process of multiple pimps swarming and surrounding one woman or girl and hissing insults at her, for the purposes of humiliation and intimidation.

Quota

A set amount of money a trafficked girl must make each night before she can come "home." If she returns without meeting the quota she is typically beaten or sent back out.

Reckless Eyeballing

Same as Choosing Up.

Renegade

A prostituted person not under the control of a pimp. She is quite often threatened and harassed as pressure to work for a pimp.

Stable

Refers to the group of girls under the control of a trafficker.

The Game or The Life

The subculture of prostitution which includes a set of established rules, hierarchy and language.

Trade Up, Trade Down, Buy and Sell

To move a victim like merchandise. Pimps are quick to get rid of victims who cause problems, or who no longer match the profile sought by the clientele that the pimp serves. A pimp may trade straight across, or trade with some exchange of money, or trade one victim in return for two or more other victims. The sale price for a victim is usually \$2,500 to \$3,500. The victim can be moved long distances rapidly with a guard, overnight and/or by air (Shared Hope International, 2013).

Wife-in-law (wifey)

Each individual in a group of women or girls that are with the same pimp.

“Family” and “folks” also are synonyms.

The Victims

The Basic Facts

- The majority of CSEC victims are girls.
- The average age of entry into the life is 12-14 years old for victims first prostituted as children.
- Although poverty contributes to a child’s vulnerability to CSEC, the fact remains that victims come from every socio-economic background.
- Sex trafficking was once thought of as an issue primarily in urban areas but that is rapidly changing as traffickers/pimps are targeting suburban malls and schools to recruit new victims. Also pimps recruit youth from social media sites (face book, MySpace) by posing as a new friend or possible boyfriend.
- CSEC victims are from all ethnic and racial backgrounds.

There are predominant risk factors that contribute to the likelihood of a child becoming a victim of CSEC but it is important to point out that not all children who have experienced the following risk factors will be recruited into sex trafficking and there are children who have not experienced the following risk factors but still fall prey to the coercion of a pimp.

The common factor in all CSEC victims is their vulnerability and the **primary factor of vulnerability is the child’s age**. The North Carolina School of Social Work Association categorized the following risk factors into three separate categories; individual, environmental and social.

Individual

A. Age

The average of a child that enters into the sex trafficking life is between 12 and 14. At this age the frontal lobe of the brain, the part that handles reasoning and decision making is not fully developed therefore makes a child much more susceptible to advances, manipulation and coercion used by traffickers/pimps. Children this age lack experience in romantic relationships and have much less overall “life experience” than the traffickers.

B. Sexual and Physical abuse/Neglect

Studies have found that a majority of the children that fall victim to the coercion of a trafficker/pimp have a history of sexual and/or physical abuse and neglect. When a child has lived a life of fear, shame and trauma due to abuse their sense of safety and security has been violated. They may seek an escape by running away from home. This lack of stability and the emotions surrounding their abuse makes them extremely vulnerable to the manipulative ways of a pimp/trafficker promising to take care of them or encouraging them that their worth/power is in the body and their sexuality.

C. Runaway/ Homeless Youth

Runaway and homeless youth are especially vulnerable because pimps/traffickers target these youth at shelters, group homes, foster care homes and other places servicing homeless youth. The trafficker will offer them a place to stay, food, clothes and attention and then eventually manipulate them into sex trafficking. Quite often runaway and homeless youth are exploited by an adult who offers to trade sex for basics of survival, i.e. a place to stay and something to eat. Studies have shown that within 48 hours of a child running away from home they have been approached by a trafficker/pimp/exploiter.

D. Identification as Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender (LGBT) and/or Questioning

Children who identify themselves as LGBT or are still questioning their sexuality are at a higher risk for running away from their homes because it is not uncommon for their parents to reject their sexual identity. They often feel isolated and do not have a role model or adult to turn to. For this reason LGBT youth make up a disproportionate of the homeless population.

D. Mental Health Issues

Due to most CSEC victims having experienced trauma in their life and not receiving adequate treatment, many suffer from mental health and emotional issues including depression, anxiety, eating disorders, conduct disorders and experience difficulty in school and quite often end up in

the juvenile justice system. Issues such as these contribute to their unstable lives and self-destructive behavior putting them at a risk for exploitation.

Environmental

A. Adult Sex Industry

Portland has the highest number of adult establishments per capita than any other city in the United States and the "...presence of an adult sex industry increases the risk factors of children being recruited. Myths of children being 'clean' or 'less likely to have diseases' fuel demand for underage kids as does pornography populated with images of teens and children. Often because they do not present as victims, are resistant to intervention, or are faced with countless other stereotypes and stigma, CSEC victims are not considered or treated as children" (ncsswa.org, n.d.)

B. Substance Abuse

The Center for Impact Research found that an early age of entry into the commercial sex industry relates closely to the prevalence of substance abuse of household members during childhood. (ncsswa.org, n.d.)

C. Transient Male Population

Centers of business, military bases, truck stops, or prominent sporting events are examples of places with transient male populations. Such places are often commercial in nature, people involved are afforded relative anonymity, and therefore, increased demand for a commercial sex industry. (ncsswa.org, n.d.)

Social

A. Sexism & Misogyny

"Young women are forced to navigate a sea of underlying systems of sexism and misogyny and a barrage of social messages with or without support. These relentless and often contradictory messages include the need to appear sexually attractive and available, to gain self-worth through

objectification, to downplay their strengths, to not advocate for themselves, to compete with each other but not with men, to accept gender inequality as it is. Underlying systems of gender inequality set the stage for exploitation and violence against young women” (ncsswa.org).

B. Sexualization of girls and young women

“Virtually every form of media provides ample evidence of marketing the sexualization of girls and young women. Media popular with youth, such as magazines, TV, and music videos objectify young women’s bodies and often glamorize this objectification in the context of sexual exploitation. This marketing is reaching an increasingly young audience. The APA Task Force on the Sexualization of girls uses the example of stores selling thong underwear designed for 7-10 year olds in “tween” departments as evidence of this. The saturation of such messages in our culture influence a girl’s sense of self and self-worth. Interpersonal relationships (with family, teachers and peers) can also convey messages that hinge a girl’s self-worth on her physical attractiveness or sexual readiness” (ncsswa.org, n.d.).

C. Acceptance of violence against women and minority groups

“ We live in a culture where there is still widespread acceptance of violence towards women and girls and towards gay and transgender youth. This implicit, or sometime explicit, condoning of violence and abuse fosters a dynamic in which domestic violence, intimate partner violence, hate crimes, bullying, abuse of those we consider ‘different’ are all able to flourish. (ncsswa.org, n.d.) This has been very apparent in recent years in the news of teenage girls being victims of group rape and sodomy by male classmates. The act is quite often videotaped and as a result the girl feels embarrassed and humiliated and for some this has led to their suicide. This acceptance of violence against women is termed “rape culture,” people are surrounded with images, language, laws, and other everyday phenomena that validate and perpetuate, rape. Rape culture includes jokes, TV, music, advertising, legal jargon, laws, words and imagery, that make violence against women and sexual coercion seem so normal that people believe that rape is inevitable. Rather than viewing the culture of rape as a problem to change, people in a rape culture think about the persistence of rape as “just the way things are” (Force, 2013)

D. Access to Technology

The increased use of technology and the internet has had a significant impact on the sex trafficking industry. Through websites such as Face book and other various chat rooms, children are easily coerced by predators into the world of sexual exploitation. According to Shared Hope International, pornography, such as internet pornography is the gateway to purchasing to buying sex. “Catherine Mackinon, a feminist professor at Harvard Law School, says that “consuming pornography is an experience of bought sex” and thus it creates a hunger to continue to purchase

and objectify, and act out what is seen. And in a very literal way, pornography is advertising for trafficking, not just in general but also in the sense that traffickers and pimps use pornographic images of victims as specific advertising for their “products” (Breaking Free, 2013)

How Does a Child Become a Victim of Sexual Exploitation and Trafficking?

A child enters the life of sex trafficking typically through a series of steps that initially begins with a pimp/trafficker targeting children and teens and through manipulation and coercion progresses into sexual exploitation. The following provides a very common and very real depiction of this progression.

1. Pimp/trafficker frequents places that youth congregate specifically malls, bus stops, parks, movie theaters, frequented websites and anywhere close to schools. For homeless youth, this may include shelters and other places serving homeless youth. Pimps target children that may appear especially vulnerable.
2. The pimp/trafficker begins by simply noticing the youth and paying attention to her which typically begins as giving compliments and then progresses into conversation. At this stage the pimp/trafficker is able to elicit information from her which gives him a better understanding of her background, her family life, family support or lack of, etc. all of which is used in his manipulation and coercion. The youth may likely conclude or be told that this pimp is a new friend or wants to be her boyfriend.
3. As the child becomes more comfortable with him and enjoys the attention and flattery, the trafficker/pimp then begins buying her things (clothes, manicures, meals, etc.), and also begins telling her that he cares for her/loves her and defines them as “boyfriend and girlfriend.” As the child feels cared for and loved which for many has been missing from their home, this emotional need is fulfilled which creates the emotional ties, allegiance, trust and loyalty that pimps rely on to eventually exert their control. Pimp/traffickers will invest a lot of time and money to create this trust as it is the foundation of their control to demand the victims to do the incomprehensible.

The trafficker/pimp will also begin at this stage to isolate the child from her family, friends and other resources in order to gradually make her dependent on him emotionally, physically, mentally and financially.

It is important to remember that the development level of a twelve or thirteen year old or many teens is not sophisticated enough to realize that they are being manipulated by this person. What they perceive as someone loving them is actually the seduction and manipulation of a trafficker’s recruitment process.

4. Once the allegiance and trust has been established, the pimp/trafficker then gives the child the message that the child “needs” him and is dependent on him. This also entails questioning her as to how she would survive without him. This notion of dependency becomes very real and the

child begins to believe him. Especially for the homeless youth, the reality is that they do depend on the pimp/trafficker to meet their basic needs.

5. When the pimp/trafficker is confident that he has loyalty from his victim then his story begins to change. The gifts and attention she received before diminishes and he begins to give the impression that they are in need of money and plants the idea of the child doing one “small favor” for him which always involves selling sex. Due to the bond and loyalty the child feels towards the pimp, she feels obligated to help and then this one favor leads to another which leads to another which is the beginning of the victim working for the pimp/trafficker.

“You’ll start to dress her, think for her, own her. If you and your victim are sexually active, slow it down. After sex, take her shopping for one item. Hair and/or nails are fine. She’ll develop a feeling of accomplishment. The shopping after a month will be replaced with cash. The love making turns into raw sex. She’ll start to crave the intimacy and be willing to get back into your good graces. After you have broken her spirit, she has no sense of self value. Now pimp put a price tag on the item you have manufactured.” (The Pimp Game: Instructional Guide (Sharif Publishing: 1998. SharedHopeInternational)

6. If a child resists the idea of performing a sexual act as her pimp has suggested then there are consequences for her. It is at this moment where the relationship has turned from “nurturing” to threatening. Many victims can recall the exact moment their relationship with their pimp switched.

7. From this point on the pimp/trafficker leverages the loyalty the victim feels towards him as a means of trafficking the child for money. If the child is reluctant or hesitates with his demands the trafficker becomes abusive and blames the child for the abuse as most abusers do. The consequence of not following the pimp’s directives is violent and brutal. These consequences include beatings, gang rape, standing facing a corner for hours at a time, starvation, forced drug use and then quite often is followed by the trafficker showing affection and tenderness towards the child which is part of the psychological abuse.

“I was 14 years old, and the way the pimp came at me was that at first I didn’t even know he was a pimp. He came at me like a boyfriend. Yes, he was an older boyfriend but he cared about me.... Six months later he told me ‘Let’s run away together. We can have a beautiful house and family.’ And I did believe him, and we ran away, and then the story changed and I met the other girls that he had in his stable. And I had to go out every night and work the streets — the alternative was being gang raped by a group of pimps while everyone watched.” (Tina Frundt, Founder of Courtney’s House, and Survivor of domestic minor sex trafficking, HopeInternational, 2009)

8. In order to exert their control, pimps keep the victims psychologically weak, by keeping her drugged, hungry by only allowing her to eat once a day and trafficks her to other cities making her unfamiliar with her surroundings therefore she will be less likely to leave.

9. Most victims are required to work seven days a week and make a specific dollar amount or “quota” before they are allowed to come “home.” All money earned goes directly to the pimp and again, often times if they do not return with the specified dollar amount then there are consequences.

The time it takes for a child to be recruited varies. It can take as little as a day or it can take months; much of it depends on the access the pimp has to the child and the level of her vulnerability. In addition, some pimps/traffickers will use violence and brutality right from the start, which includes kidnapping, beating and gang raping a child before they are forced into “the life” with little hope of escape.

Trauma Bonding

“Researchers have likened commercial sexual exploitation to the experiences of “hostages, prisoners of war, or concentration camp inmates” (California Child Welfare, 2013)

Despite the control and violence experienced on a daily basis, victims continue to believe they “love” their pimps/traffickers as if they were a boyfriend or husband. Quite often they do not see themselves as victims which makes it very difficult for local authorities and victims’ advocates to help them leave the life of trafficking and the control of their pimp. The bond they feel towards their pimp exists in almost EVERY victim and it is referred to as a trauma bond or Stockholm Syndrome. As described by West Coast Children’s Clinic, “It describes the victim’s coping behavior to increase his or her own safety and decrease pain during victimization. When exposed to constant threat, seeming acts of kindness on the part of the abuser create an emotional bond whereby the victim may see the abuser as a protector and begin to sympathize with and care for the abuser. Though this is an adaptive psychological phenomenon to situations of extreme physical danger and even terror, this phenomenon makes protecting exploited children particularly difficult as they make accommodations to the ongoing abuse and resist others’ attempts to free them from the abuse. Younger children are particularly vulnerable (p.135).

Why don’t victims leave “the life?”

- Physical control- The victim is a child and the trafficker/pimp is an adult male therefore larger and stronger and with much more life experience. Quite often a victim is beaten by the pimp in front of other victims, sending the message of the consequence for defying him. Also beatings may be inflicted on one girl for the punishment of another, creating a sense of loyalty to the group or “family” as a whole (SharedHopeInternational-INTERVENE, 2010).

- Psychological control- This kind of control is as powerful if not more than physical control. This includes trauma bonding as well as the manipulation of traffickers in making the victims believe that it is their choice to prostitute and that they have no alternative to prostitution; it is who they are (SharedHopeInternational-INTERVENE, 2010).
- Fear-Although victims are loyal to their pimps and may say they love their pimp, they are also very fearful of them. They live in fear of being beaten when they least expect it while at the same time rely on their trafficker for their basic needs. The pimp also threatens to hurt or kill the victim as well as her family if she defies him therefore she is in constant fear for herself and her loved ones.
- Blackmail-The pimp will use photographs of the victim engaging in sexual acts as blackmail to show to her family and friends. The shame involved in possible exposure, keeps the youth tied to her trafficker.
- Do not identify as victims-It can take years before a CSEC victims sees herself as a victim. Similar to a domestic violence victim, she minimizes her pimp's abusive behavior, blames herself for her abuse and even though she is making money, it is her pimp that is "taking care of her." Also, CSEC victims believe their pimp is their boyfriend and he cares about her thus making it difficult to leave him.

Identifying CSEC victims

Many of the following identifiers may also apply to non-CSEC victims therefore it is important to follow up with specific questions to assess the possibility of a potential victim.

- History of childhood sexual and physical abuse
- Dependency history (involvement with DHS)
- Addiction to substances(including family members)
- Involvement in the juvenile justice system
- Homeless
- Low self esteem

- Appears paranoid, fearful or submissive
- Has had multiple STD's, pregnancies, abortions
- Tattoos-Victims will quite often tattoo the name of their pimp, also words such as "loyalty=royalty," "fly girl," "bottom bitch" or someone's "property."
- Physical marks-Violence is an everyday occurrence for victims therefore it is not uncommon to see black eyes, bruises on arms, legs, neck, etc.
- Older boyfriend-Victims will have an older "boyfriend" that they refer to as "Daddy," "Papa" or "P."
- Controlled- Evidence of a controlling boyfriend, i.e. insistent phone calls and texts or overly concerned about making boyfriend angry.
- Nice clothes/nails-Victims will have new clothes and manicured nails but cannot explain how they purchased these items due to being trained by the pimp to lie to authorities.
- Slang words-Use of any of the language that is commonly used in the sex trafficking world.
- Secrecy-A victim will not let you know where she lives or where she goes.
- Provocative clothes-Wearing provocative clothes can be an indicator in some cases but not all, a reliable sign is new clothes and manicured nails.
- Lying about age-Victims have been trained to lie to authorities, so if she is under age she will tell you that she is at least 18, therefore it is important to be aware of body language and other social cues that might indicate that she is younger.
- Chronic running away-Homeless youth are extremely susceptible to the exploitations of a pimp for survival.
- Social media site-Victim has sexually provocative pictures on her Face book page

Screening Questions

The following are the least invasive questions retrieved from the Intervene Screening Tool developed by Shared Hope International (2010). They are appropriate for public sector employees with a basic knowledge of CSEC. If you determine the client is a CSEC victim please refer them to the Sexual Assault Resource Center (SARC) or licensed professional in your county (Please see listed resources on p.48)

Living Situation

1. Where are you from? Is this where you live now?
2. Do you currently live with your parents? If not, where do you live and with whom?
3. What is your relationship like with your parents/guardians and siblings?
4. Have you ever been in foster care?
5. Are you currently in foster care?
6. How long have you been in foster care?
7. When things get tough while in foster care, what strengths/resources helped you deal with it?
8. Do you go to school? What subjects do you like/dislike?
9. Are you involved in any activities at school? [Yes, What activities?] [No, do you wish you were involved in any activities?]
10. Have you ever left home without parent/guardian knowledge?
11. Why did you leave home?
12. How many times have you run away?
13. Where do you like to go when you run away?
14. What were some of the ways you took care of yourself while you were away from home?
15. Did you ever do any traveling while you were gone?
16. What places did you go? Can you describe what you saw?

17. While traveling who did you go with? How did you get from one place to the next?
18. How long were you gone?
19. While you were away from home did anything keep you from going back?
20. While you were away from home did you experience anything that made you uncomfortable or scared?
21. Do you feel safe now?
22. Do you have a best friend? Who is that?

Arrest History

1. Have you ever been arrested? For what? (Example: curfew violations, skipping school, running away, drugs)
2. What happened when you were arrested?
3. Was there a person you could count on to help you through the experience? How did you know you could rely on them?

Partner History

1. Do you have a boyfriend or girlfriend?
2. How did you meet?
3. What do you two do for fun? Where do you go?
4. Every couple has problems-what are some things about your relationship that you don't like?
5. What are some of the things that person does to show he or she cares for you?
6. How old is he/she?

Tattoos (if visible)

1. What does your tattoo mean?
2. When did you get it?

3. Was someone there while you got it? Who?

The pictures below are examples of tattoos victims will have done on their arms, feet,



abdomen and neck.



The “Loyalty” tattoo symbolizes the victim’s loyalty to her pimp and to “the life.” The image on the right is an example of a type of tattoo that is becoming popular with victims. The ornate Japanese symbols and designs symbolizes that she brings in a lot of money, therefore her quality of service and the ability to charge a higher price. The young woman in the picture used to be prostituted but then began trafficking.



In the above picture “Fly Gurl or Girl” indicates that she is on the move, working and very involved in the sex trafficking life.

Working with CSEC victims

Working with CSEC victims takes patience, empathy and the ability to meet them where they are mentally and emotionally. It is important to remember that they have been traumatized repeatedly and are broken. We are just now beginning to understand the complexity of the psychological, emotional and mental damage CSEC victims have experienced and how to address these issues while ensuring they feel safe to do so. In addition to complex PTSD, many victims may have other mental health issues such as; anxiety and stress disorder, attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD), eating disorders, impulse control, suicide, depression, self-harming, personality disorders, etc. and it is no uncommon for CSEC victims to be diagnosed with more than one. Coupled with psychological disorders CSEC victims also experience many physical health risks such as pregnancy, STD’s and HIV due to the multiple rapes and sexual encounters experienced while in ‘the life.’

If you believe you are working with a CSEC victim, it is not wise to immediately launch into a list of probing questions. First and foremost **it is important to address their immediate needs:**

- Sleep-more than likely she has been awake for most of the night, let her sleep, she will be much more receptive after getting rest.
- Food-the victim will most likely be hungry, pimp's use food as another means of control.
- Medical attention-due to abuse, numerous sexual encounters and lack of self-care, CSEC victims have a multitude of medical needs.
- Connect victim with appropriate services and providers that are specific for CSEC victims.

Do's and Don'ts for Appropriately Engaging with CSEC Victims-Based on information provided by GEMS (Girls Education Mentoring Services)

Do-put into practice your knowledge of risk factors, pathways to CSEC, and techniques for victim identification when identifying and engaging with youth.

Don't- rely on stereotypes to identify or engage with sexually exploited children

Do provide a safe place for engagement

Don't question or engage a sexually exploited child at a location where they feel threatened or unsafe

Do be non-judgmental when listening to a sexually exploited child

Don't react verbally or physically in a way that communicates disgust or disdain. Refrain from displaying a shocked face or talking about how "awful" the child's experience was. This may shut the child down.

Do work to build trust with a sexually exploited child.

Don't expect immediate gratitude for your efforts.

Do pay attention to your body posture. Face the child and make eye contact. Show interest, empathy, and understanding through verbalizations, nods and facial expressions. Speak in a calm and even tone.

Don't act or appear to be distracted, disinterested, or disapproving. Do not use intimidation tactics like interrogating the child or standing over the child.

Do keep physical contact to a minimum. When there is physical contact, let a child know exactly what you are doing and remind the child that you are not there to hurt them.

Don't use physical contact where it is not appropriate. Physical contact as a comforting should be initiated by the child.

Do be familiar with street language and slang that children and youth might use.

Don't try to use street language and slang out of context when talking with children and youth.

Do use language and terms that are appropriate and sensitive to a child's experience as a victim.

Don't expect youth to always phrase their experiences in language that is appropriate or to refer to themselves as victims. Do not use inappropriate language, derogatory terms, shame, or belittlement when discussing the child's experiences.

Do recognize the various symptoms of trauma exhibited and coping mechanisms used by a CSEC victims that may not be those one typically associates with victims.

Don't use strategies that switch intermittently between treating child as an offender, then a victim.

Do recognize the child as a victim and a survivor of severe child abuse.

Don't treat the child as a perpetrator by prosecuting the child and not using statutory rape, sexual abuse, and trafficking laws to prosecute pimps, johns, traffickers and recruiters

Do help a child "slow down" and debrief if they seem overwhelmed or disconnected when telling their story. Limit the amount of information you ask them to disclose.

Don't expect or push every child to disclose all the details of their abuse. Sometimes heavy information will need to be gathered in stages.

Do keep the child talking and make them feel comfortable.

Don't dispute facts or comment on a child's motivation. This is likely to stop the flow of information.

Do take sexually exploited youth seriously.

Don't diminish the seriousness of their experiences or concerns.

Do meet a sexually exploited child where they are and on their terms, and try to meet the needs they present.

Don't expect a child to recognize their situation as exploitive or to present themselves as a victim in need of immediate intervention or rescuing.

Do apply sensitivity and attention to a child's cultural background.

Don't draw conclusions based on stereotypes of a child's culture, race, ethnicity, class, gender, or sexual orientation. Do not impose actions that are culturally inappropriate or insensitive.

Do continually process your own experiences, feelings, and judgments concerning the issues surrounding sexual exploitation.

Don't ignore signs of vicarious re-traumatization or burnout fatigue.

Do improve a systematic response to CSEC by creating inter-agency relationships to comprehensively meet victim's needs.

Don't assume sole responsibility for meeting the myriad and complex needs of CSEC victims.

Do collaborate with local experts and survivors of sexual exploitation to engage with victims or to work for policy change.

Don't marginalize the experiences or voices of survivors in a community response to CSEC.

***Professionals working with CSEC survivors experience a higher level of vicarious trauma-please take care of yourself!**

Popular Locations Where You Will Find CSEC Victims

It is important to be aware that venues are different from city to city but exist in most communities small and large.

- Malls
- Bus stops
- Truck stops
- Homeless shelters
- Areas of the city with high prostitution activity

Traffickers/Exploiters

Most research on CSEC involves rightfully so, information on the victims, resources and the laws surrounding CSEC but little research has been done on the traffickers/pimps and the factors that contribute to their involvement in sex trafficking. What we do know are the behaviors, characteristics and physical markings (tattoos) that identify a pimp/trafficker. In the media today the word “pimp” is synonymous with good or better such as the popular TV show, “Pimp My Ride” and unfortunately desensitizes the general public to the violent and horrific nature of sex trafficking. The following is a list of common trafficker characteristics compiled by Sergeant Jesse Luna from the Multnomah County Sheriff’s Office (MCSO) and District Attorney JR Ujifusa:

- Money is above everything
- Family/friends involved in prostitution-it is not uncommon for the mother of a trafficker to assist in the business by collecting money from the girls, recruiting and encouraging the victims not to testify.
- Tattoos
- Multiple girlfriends
- Manipulative
- Sociopathic elements (narcissism)
- Multiple phones
- No clear financial resource yet very well dressed and has material things
- Possession of escort type photos
- Gang affiliated

- DV experience in home life
- Abuse history
- Sexually advanced for age
- Frequents adult establishments
- Pictures of themselves, money, fine clothing, nice rims/cars

“There are two primary factors that drive human traffickers: high profits and low risk” (Polaris Project, 2013). Typically a trafficker/pimp will have three to four girls in his “stable.” With each girl working seven days a week and making \$200-\$400 a night on average and all of the money going directly to the pimp, the amount of money made per year is hundreds of thousands of dollars. Due to the underground nature of sex trafficking it is difficult to determine the number of traffickers in a given city. In Portland for instance, from July 2010 to June 2013 there were approximately 258 pimps/traffickers IDENTIFIED (Sergeant Jesse Luna, 2013) by the Multnomah County Sheriff’s Office, yet it is well known that there are many others who have not yet been identified. Interestingly, even though sex trafficking is considered an underground crime the number of websites and YouTube videos of pimps/traffickers explaining how to be a pimp or how to run a sex trafficking business is staggering. Also, it is quite common for traffickers to boast about their earnings on social media sites as their Face book, MySpace or Flickr page.

“You can only sell a dime bag once. You can sell a ten year old girl over and over again.”

*LaKendra Baker
Counselor to CSEC victims*

Tattoos

One of the most obvious means of identifying a trafficker is by the tattoos displayed on their arms, neck, chest, hands, back and stomach. The most popular ones currently are:

- \$ sign
- Birds or wings-this indicates a “fly boy”
- Star- a five point star represents “five point service”
- Music notes-these seemingly attract young girls
- “Loyalty”

- “MOB”- Money Over Bitches
- “AOB”-All On Bitches
- “Hustling”

Below are pictures of tattoos on the arms, chest and neck of pimps that were in custody at the Multnomah County Detention Center. These pictures were taken from July of 2010 through June of 2013 and depict the common tattoos seen during this time, however, be aware that new ones will also be created and become popular as well. It is important to be aware of tattoos and be able to identify those that represent sex trafficking.









In Multnomah County the pimps/traffickers that have been identified are, generally speaking, between the ages of 18-30, gang affiliated and mostly men. Again, these are offenders that are in the judicial system, so the true depiction of all the other traffickers that have not been identified is not clear. Multnomah probation officer Ian Clanton whose caseload is comprised mainly of traffickers/pimps describes the traffickers he supervises as:

- Highly deceptive
- Very manipulative
- Confrontational
- Have many people lying for them

- Do not have a single residence but stay in multiple places

According to Shared Hope International pimps/traffickers share many of the same psychological characteristics as psychopaths as defined by the Psychopath Checklist Revised (PCL-R). Some of these descriptors are: glibness/superficial charm, cunning/ manipulative, lack of empathy, remorse or guilt, pathological lying, high need for stimulation. Although these behaviors are the same behaviors and tactics used by traffickers, there is only one study done by Melissa Snow that looks at the correlation between a diagnosed psychopath and a pimp. The study analyzed 22 male prisoners incarcerated for pimping. The subjects were assessed through an interview process with the PCL-R. More than one-third of the 22 participants met the PCL-R characteristics resulting in the diagnosis of psychopath (“The Sociopath Construct of the American Pimp.” Working paper, March 2009.). This study concluded that significant concern should be given to victims under pimp control due to the high rate of psychopathic characteristics of pimps (Shared Hope International, 2009).

How are traffickers caught?

Pimps are most often identified when and if they become involved in the criminal justice system. Most pimps who are in custody are not charged with trafficking but for other crimes such as a probation violation (in this case the trafficker is already involved in the system and is currently on probation), domestic violence, drug charges, UUMV (Unauthorized Use of a Motor Vehicle) and murder. According to Sergeant Jesse Luna from MCSO, almost all those charged with murder have a sex trafficking connection.

Once a pimp has been identified while in custody, authorities begin to monitor visiting records, mail and record phone calls on the jail phone. Pimps are notorious for constantly being on the jail phone; they are often talking with the girls and still carrying on business. In phone recordings a sex trafficking victim and the pimp will speak in a code about the business, for instance, the word “meals” typically refers to how many johns a victim has had or the work “hot” indicates that she is busy. Authorities will watch for a correlation between how much money the victim says she has earned and how much money is put on the pimp’s books.

It is extremely difficult for investigators/detectives and the DA to convince a victim to testify because of fear of the pimp and quite often threats from his family and associates, therefore prosecutors rely heavily on evidence gathered from the aforementioned sources.

The Buyers and the Demand

“I took only one course in business management and economics, but it seems pretty basic to me. Without customers, you don’t have any business and you will fold... Police have attacked prostitution with the wrong method. They’ve gone after the prostitutes. I think the focus should have been on the customer.”

Chief Pierce Brooks, Eugene (Oregon) Police Department, 1978

Sex trafficking is a business based on supply and demand. To give you an idea of the prevalence of the demand, we can use Portland as an example where a typical pimp has four girls working for him. If each girl is forced to work six nights a week, bringing in \$400 a night, at the rate of \$50-\$100 for each meeting, this equals to servicing 4 to 8 “johns.” This is potentially 24 men in one night between four girls under the control of one pimp. With the amount of traffickers in Portland, this easily adds up to possibly hundreds of “johns” buying sex in a single night in Portland alone. This number does not include men that are buying child pornography on line or visiting strip clubs or other adult establishments, therefore if we include these buyers as well the number grows exponentially.

The buyers of sex are a very diverse population from every socio-economic level, race and profession. When we think of adult men desiring sex with children or teens we label them a pedophile but the reality is that most men that buy sex with underage girls are what is called “Situational Abusers.” Shared Hope International defines situational abusers as, “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 18) without necessarily feeling any real sexual attraction towards them” (2010 p. 23). They often justify their actions by claiming that they were not aware of the victims age, which in fact they may have not but none the less they are still contributing to the horrific crime. The fact that many buyers look like what our society would call “normal” makes it difficult to identify them because they blend in as average everyday citizens.

The demand for buying sex is especially high at events where there is a high population of men, such as sporting events and business conventions. Where there is a high demand the supply will follow. For example, it is a known fact that when there are events at the Portland Convention Center, the sex trafficking within the city surges.

Stopping the demand for buying sex will require more than addressing the individual that purchases sex but will require a change in our culture in the way we view women, the sexualization of young girls and young women, the acceptance of violence against women, the glamorization of “pimps,” and reframing the word ‘prostitute’ to “victim.”

The Internet

The use of the internet has changed the face of the sex trafficking industry. Not only has it caused an explosion of pornography much of which includes images of children and teens, it has changed the way victims are recruited, solicited, advertised and bought and it has contributed to pushing the crime further underground. Due to the popularity of Facebook and other social media sites to communicate, children have become much more vulnerable to the recruitment of pimps/traffickers all within the confines of their own home. Young girls walking up and down SE 82nd Ave. attempting to attract customers is not as prevalent as it once was even five years ago as the internet now allows pimps to advertise the “services” on popular websites that cater to the sex trafficking industry. At any time a person can Google “Portland Escorts” and a list of escort services will pop up. Some are more graphic in nature than others but all provide pictures and contact information.

It is common to use euphemisms to indicate what a victim charges for services, what she is willing to do or not do and how old she may be. For instance the words “donations” or “roses” lets the buyer know how much it will cost per hour, words such as “young,” “barely legal,” “fresh,” “candy” or “new to the game” is an indication that the victim is under the age of 18 and according to Kaffie McCullough of A Future. Not a Past/Juvenile Justice Fund, “65% of the johns [buyers] who go on the Internet are more responsive if the ads have age descriptors” (SharedHopeInternational , 2009). On any given day backpage.com will have 150-180 ads posted per day for Portland only, this does not include the suburbs such as Beaverton or Gresham or Vancouver. The internet has now become the primary means by which pimps/trafficker and johns buy and sell children and women for sex in the United States. Girls that advertise on-line portray that they work independently but in reality most are victims of sex trafficking and work under the demand of a pimp, more so than people recognize or understand (PolarisProject-2013).

The Hotel Industry

The hotel industry contributes significantly to the problem of CSEC. Most services provided by victims are performed in hotels, many of which are not only the seedy motels that you might imagine but also the high end hotels throughout the city. According to Michelle Guelbart, Project Coordinator for ECPAT-USA, “Hotel rooms are used as venues for exploitation. A pimp might hold up one or two girls in a room and might run traffic out of another room. They'll post ads on a website and send a girl to the room next door” (Fighting sex trafficking in hotels, one room at a time, 2012).

In 2008, Kimberly Ritter a meeting planner at Nix Conference and Meeting Management of St. Louis was setting up a meeting sight for the next conference of one of their biggest clients; U.S. Federation of the Sisters of St. Joseph. The nuns asked Ritter to book their conference at a

hotel that had signed the tourism code of conduct developed by ECPAT (End Child Prostitution and Trafficking) a voluntary set of principles that businesses can adopt to fight trafficking. This began Ritter's education on child sex trafficking and during her research she realized that she recognized many of the hotel rooms of major hotel chains in the pictures posted on popular sex trafficking websites. When she approached the hotels about signing the voluntary agreement, many were reluctant fearing that by signing the agreement they were admitting to sex trafficking taking place in their hotel. Since then this attitude has slowly changed and Ritter has made it her work to convince hotels, specifically high end hotels across the United States that it is good for their business to join the fight against sex trafficking. Hotels that sign the Tourism Child-Protection Code of Conduct agree to the following:

1. To establish an ethical policy regarding commercial sexual exploitation of children.
2. To train the personnel in the country of origin and travel destinations.
3. To introduce a clause in contracts with suppliers, stating a common repudiation of commercial sexual exploitation of children.
4. To provide information to travelers by means of catalogues, brochures, in-flight films, ticket-slips, home pages, etc.
5. To provide information to local "key persons" at the destinations.
6. To report annually.

Travel industry businesses that have signed the contract thus far are:

- Wyndham Worldwide
- Global Exchange's Reality Tours
- Hilton Worldwide
- Delta Airlines
- Carlson Companies which includes Radisson Hotels

The next time you check into a hotel ask if they have signed the Tourism Child-Protection Code of Conduct. You may be surprised to learn that many Oregon and national hotels have not agreed to sign it. As a guest in a hotel, if you see red flags of possible sex trafficking, inform the hotel manager and call the national hotline to report your suspicions.

The Challenges in Combating CSEC

The commercial sexual exploitation of children is an issue that has reached a crisis point. Combating CSEC across the country and in our own community is an extremely difficult task

involving many overlapping factors that hinder the ability of those involved in the fight against sex trafficking to free victims and prosecute the traffickers and the buyers. The following is a list of the challenges faced in combating this crime:

1. **Lack of identification/misidentification**-those working on the front line in law enforcement, juvenile facilities, social services, the courts and homeless shelters do not have the knowledge to properly identify a CSEC victim. Without proper identification victims end up in the juvenile justice system on charges such as drug possession or chronic running away therefore do not receive the needed services. The remedy for misidentification of victims is awareness for front line public sector employees as well as the general public.
2. **Unawareness of Children**-Due to the manipulation of pimps/traffickers, children do not report themselves as victims and do not understand the extent of victimization they are put through (Officer Mike Grieger, Portland Police)
3. **Misrepresentation**-Child victims of sex trafficking have been trained by the pimps to lie, especially to the authorities. Pimps typically provide fake identification for the child with a birthdate that makes them adult. If a victim is identified as a child, they are typically charged with a prostituted activity, spend a few days in a juvenile detention center and then transferred to a foster home, group home or treatment center and as soon as they arrive they run right back to their pimp/trafficker. In Portland, at the Donald E. Long Juvenile Detention Center the only reason to hold a juvenile for a misdemeanor crime is if they had an extensive criminal history or a warrant, otherwise they are taken to the Reception Center, a receiving center for non-detainable youth in need of services. Again, once the victims arrive and after the officers have left the grounds victims often run straight back to their pimp.
4. **Lack of Services**-As we are learning more about the unique needs of sex trafficking victims, it has become very apparent that these victims have unique therapeutic needs compared to other sex abuse victims. Unfortunately, this leaves very little resources available specifically for CSEC victims. There are only a handful of facilities throughout the United States specifically for CSEC victims for the hundreds of thousands of children in need of these services.
5. **The Burden is on the Victim's Testimony**- The best evidence against a pimp is the testimony of a victim, unfortunately due to the trauma bond the victim has with her trafficker and the fear of retaliation for speaking against him, it can take a very long time, in many instances years, for the victim to be in a place where she is ready to testify. It is also important to remember that testifying also re-traumatizes the victim therefore she is reliving the horrific experience. Often times authorities find other innovative means of gathering evidence if the victim is unable or unwilling to testify.
6. **The Buyers**-Sex trafficking is a business of supply and demand, but buyers are not recognized as a significant contributor to the problem therefore are not prosecuted accordingly. If we understand that the demand is the driving force behind the supply then we will need to enforce harsher and stricter laws for buyers.
7. **Our Culture**-Our culture plays a significant role in the prevalence of CSEC. The sexualization of very young girls has been an accepted behavior as seen in the clothes in the children's section of department stores, i.e. shirts that show the midriff, thong

underwear, very short shorts and body hugging stretch pants. In addition, a “pimp” has become glorified and idealized in music and movies, therefore accepted.

8. **Systematic issues**-With so many CSEC victims being in the juvenile justice system it is essential that we understand that they require a different approach in working with them than any other child in the system. CSEC victims are in constant fear and are in constant communication with their pimp many times unbeknownst to the staff working with them. Systematically we are not set up to separate CSEC victims from the general population in a detention setting or treatment setting. This can cause more trauma, victimization and fear for the victim.

State and Federal Laws

In 2000 the Federal government passed the Trafficking Victims Protection Act (TVPA), this was the first comprehensive federal law to address sex trafficking. The law provides a three-pronged approach that includes prevention, protection, and prosecution. The TVPA was reauthorized through the Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act (TVPRA) of 2003, 2005, and 2008 (PolarisProject, 2013). In 2012 the Obama administration continued to work towards fighting commercial sex trafficking by organizing the Interagency Task Force, chaired by the Secretary of State, to Monitor and Combat Human Trafficking. In addition new initiatives were introduced to properly train state and federal law enforcement to better identifying victims, provide victims services and resources and developing partnerships with the business and technology communities (California Childwelfare Council, 2013).

Oregon continues to work on toughening our laws against pimps/traffickers and johns, but prosecuting traffickers is difficult because of the complex nature of the crime. It requires a joint effort between local police, the Sheriff’s office, the victim, the DA’s office, detectives, the FBI state and local authorities, victim’s advocates and others depending on the case. Currently in Oregon a minor is not charged with prostitution but there are two conflicting views on completely decriminalizing sex trafficking for a minor. Some advocacy groups believe that you are criminalizing and re-victimizing the child if they are charged with a sex trafficking related crime. Law enforcement on the other hand struggles with this because if you are not able to charge a minor with prostitution or related crime then the police have no legal basis or probable cause which places a limit on how much time the police have to sit down and talk to the child without violating their rights and create legal risks for the officer/person interviewing the victim. The bottom line is if you can’t make contact with the child then it becomes very difficult to help them get the services they need and the information police need to charge the pimp/trafficker. We will need to find a balance between meeting the needs of the victim and collecting evidence from the victim without re-traumatizing her. Efforts are under way to use statutes found in protective custody policies to allow law enforcement to make contact and detain youth they suspect are victims of CSEC.

What can we do as service providers and professionals?

In the literature on CSEC and gathering information from local professionals that work with victims and traffickers, similar themes emerged in what we can do as public sector employees, parents and citizens to help combat CSEC.

Prevention- Educating our youth about sex trafficking, how it happens and the consequences, through health education in the schools, after school programs and talking to our own children.

Change our views- As a society we need to change the way we view CSEC and prostitution.

Stop supporting adult themed businesses-It is important to remember that the girls and young women that work in the strip clubs, that are in the pornographic movies in the adult book stores and adult lingerie stores are victims of sexual abuse. When supporting these businesses we are essentially re-victimizing these young women.

Intervention-We need to intervene before a child becomes a gang member or a runaway or a drug addict. When we don't intervene early on then we as a society pay later.

Collaboration!!-In order to really make an impact it is essential that as agencies, citizens, social service programs and health care providers we share information and collaborate. CSEC is a complex issue that cannot be handled by one particular agency, everyone can put their skill set and expertise into practice and work in a collaborative effort to provide a holistic therapeutic service.

Public Awareness-Until relatively recently as a country we were oblivious to the prevalence of CSEC in our country, and for many there continues to be denial. It is our responsibility as public sector employees to bring the issue of CSEC to the forefront so that it is not ignored and we can hopefully rescue a whole population of young people.

To Learn More About CSEC (Multnomah County Website, 2013)

Book Titles about Trafficking

Half the Sky: Turning Oppression into Opportunity for Women Worldwide - written by Nicholas D. Kristof and Sheryl WuDunn

Renting Lacy: A Story of America's Prostituted Children - written by Linda Smith with Cindy Coloma

The Road of Lost innocence: The Story of a Cambodian Heroine – written by Somaly Mam
 Prostitution, Trafficking and Traumatic Stress - written by Melissa Farley

Films about Trafficking

Very Young Girls – documentary based on the work of the GEMS program. Available at Netflix

Dan Rather Reports’ Dan Rather Reports, Season 5 – Pornland, Oregon. Available on iTunes

Taken (2008) - Available at Netflix

Resources

The following are national hotlines that provide information, local resources and contact information for your community. Retrieved from <http://www.polarisproject.org/resources/referrals>

National Trafficking Hotlines

National Human Trafficking Resource Center (NHTRC), operated by Polaris Project

- **1-888-3737-888**
- Funded in part by the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS)
- Toll-free; national in scope; 24-hour capacity
- Non-law enforcement
- Accepts tips about potential trafficking situations; provides urgent and non-urgent referrals for services; provides technical assistance; and disseminates general information and comprehensive anti-trafficking resources.

Trafficking in Persons and Worker Exploitation Task Force Line 1-888-428-7581

- Funded by the US Department of Justice (DOJ)

- Toll-free; national in scope; 9am-5pm EST weekdays
- Direct call to federal law enforcement

National Center for Missing and Exploited Children (NCMEC) National Hotline

- 1-800-843-5678 (THE-LOST)
- www.cybertipline.com
- Toll-free; national in scope
- 24-hour capacity
- Report missing children and cases of child sexual exploitation

Multnomah County Resources-Retrieved from
web.multco.us/sites/default/files/dcj.../csec_resource_guide081111

Sexual Assault Resource Center (SARC) - Contact SARC for assistance with immediate intervention. SARC advocates often respond with law enforcement or to victims in the hospital. Providing confidential advocacy and case management for CSEC victims, SARC services can be initiated through victims, families, law enforcement, DHS and community service providers by calling the crisis line. Crisis Line: 503- 640-5311 or toll free at 1-888-640-5311 for emergency response to victims or www.sarcoregon.org

Janus Youth Program, Reception Center (Harry's Mother): Law enforcement will immediately transport youth to Harry's Mother for triage and shelter services. Youth may access Harry's Mother themselves. Staff can assist in crisis planning for youth, and are familiar with CSEC. Harry's Mother is located at 738 NE Davis Street Portland, OR 97232 or call (503) 233-8111.

LifeWorks, NW: Referring people under 18 years old - Intensive Community Based Treatment Services (ICTS) workers are specifically trained in working with CSEC victims. ICTS provides urgent/immediate mental health assessments as well as ongoing counseling, psychiatric referral, skill building and case management services. Call 503-710-1513 – during business hours or the after hours phone 971-563-8522 or go to Website: www.lifeworksnw.org

LifeWorks, NW - New Options for Women (NOW) - To refer adults who are currently being prostituted call Carey Cogswell at 503-761-5272

FBI: Investigates federal cases of CSEC involving victims under the age of 18 years old. Main office number [503-224-4181](tel:503-224-4181)

Multnomah County Sheriffs Office: Use this information to report instances of human trafficking of international victims. Deputy Keith Bickford, Oregon Human Trafficking Task Force – 503-251-2479 – keith.bickford@mcsso.us

Portland Police Bureau (PPB): Investigates local cases of CSEC involving victims under the age of 18 years old. Human Trafficking Unit - Sgt. Mike Geiger (503)823-0690 - mike.geiger@portlandoregon.gov

Department of Human Services: CSEC Unit: This unit works with families/youth who are sexually exploited or are victims of human trafficking. Jamie Broadbent, CSEC Supervisor: [503-872-6990](tel:503-872-6990).

Child Abuse Hotline-[503-731-3100](tel:503-731-3100) To make a report. Contact Stacy Bellevia if you have questions about making a report, previous report, cross report, etc.

Marion County Resources

Department of Human Resources Child Abuse Hotline: [503-378-6704](tel:503-378-6704)

Salem Police Department: 555 Liberty Street SE #130, Salem,OR 97301 [503-588-6123](tel:503-588-6123)

Marion County Child Welfare Office: District 3 (Marion, Polk, Yamhill Counties)
Field Services Children, Adults And Families Division Human Services, Department of

4600 25th Ave, NE Ste 110 Salem, OR 97301 Fax: (503) 378-3061 Web site:
www.oregon.gov/dhs

Marion County Sheriff's Office: 100 High St. NE Salem, OR 97301. Mailing Address

Enforcement: [503-588-5094](tel:503-588-5094) Parole & Probation: [503-588-8492](tel:503-588-8492) **Non-Emergency Dispatch:** [503-588-5032](tel:503-588-5032) **Anonymous Tip Line:** [\(503\) 540-8079](tel:503-540-8079)

Lane County Resources-Retrieved from Lane County resource websites

Child Abuse Hotline: [541-684-7555](tel:541-684-7555)

Department of Youth Services: The Department of Youth Services (DYS) provides assessment, probation, training, counseling and detention services for all youth, ages 12-17 years old, referred by local law enforcement because of criminal behavior. [541-682-4700](tel:541-682-4700)
(<http://www.lanecounty.org/Departments/HHS/YS/Pages/default.aspx>)

Department of Human Services: The mission of Lane County Health & Human Services is to promote and protect the health and well-being of individuals, families, and our communities. Health & Human Services (H&HS) is a broad-based organization which oversees health, mental health, social services, and offender programs in a largely subcontracted system. [\(541\) 682-4035](tel:5416824035) (<http://www.lanecounty.org/Departments/HHS/Pages/default.aspx>)

Looking Glass Station 7: Station 7 is a 24-hour emergency shelter for runaway and homeless youth ages 11-17 and also serves as the youth crisis hotline for Lane County. [\(541\) 689-3111](tel:5416893111).

Eugene Police Department-300 Country Club Road Eugene, OR 97401 [541-682-5111](tel:5416825111). Contact Sergeant Curtis Newell.

Lane County Sheriff's Office Tip Line- Crime information can be reported directly to the Lane County Sheriff's Office Communications Center: [541-682-4141](tel:5416824141) OR T I P L I N E AT [541-682-4167](tel:5416824167)

Helpful Information To Gather (CSEC:Clinicians' Opportunities For Intervention, n.d.)

1. Name and location of the victim
2. Name and location of the victim's parents
3. Basis for why you think the child is being sexually exploited
4. Name, physical description, and/or location of suspected exploiter
 5. If the alleged exploiter is armed
6. Location of where exploitation occurred

*The more information you can provide the better!!!

IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN STARTING A CSEC WORK GROUP IN YOUR AGENCY OR COMMUNITY CONTACT JOSLYN BAKER, MULTNOMAH COUNTY PROJECT COORDINATOR AT 503-988-4755

A letter from a CSEC victim

The following is a letter from a Portland CSEC victim to her pimp who was being held at MCSO. The letter

PL7

(1) Okay & completely understand every
thing your telling me

TO ME I FEEL I FIT THE DISCRPTION
OF BEING YOUR BOTTOM BITCH BECAUSE

WHEN I WANT SOMETHING I DEDICATE MY
LIFE & SOUL TO IT. ITS NO GAME.

WHEN I TELL A PIMP I WANT
BE HIS HOE. I WILL SHOW DEDICATION

IN THE HOE NATION. TO YOU & THE
GAME I GIVE BACK TO THE GAME

JUST AS MUCH AS IT DESERVES.

I Really Like You in all types

of ways and I

wanna be able

D. Prince

~>

~> 48

TO grow with you so we both
 can see the finer things in life. ♀ love
 Money just as much as you do. I love
 getting money even more I can't wait to
 be able to show you what kind of
 female I am. in a positive way ♀ wanna
 be yo main squeeze and bottom
 booty just as bad as a register
 need cash, as bad as a crack head
 need @ hot, or as bad as a king needs
 his thrown. see you 3 I need cash
 bad as a fat bitch need doggin. you
 specialize in my eyes 3 things that's
 PIMPIN, HOGGIN 3 DOGGIN AM I ♀ RIGHT

Dg

(3) I get Money FO real's NOT FO Thrills.

hear me out for a minute.

when I was younger for about 5 yrs

I was molested & rape by my 3 uncles

for some reason I was always the lil girl

who got touched on even by my moms

boyfriends my mama use to be a HOE

A real bonified HOE she taught me to

just get over the fact I got touched on

so I did I use to sit in hotel rooms

why my mama would bring 2, 3, 3 tricks

@ta time she was never there for

Ne at all we been to vegas ATL

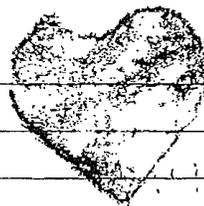
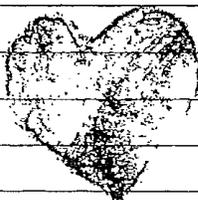
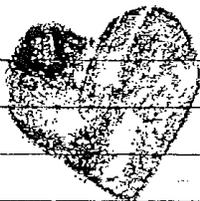
cali, Arizona

Alaska, Florida

all over the place will she hold
we ended up moving with her (PDS)
And I stayed there will she leave for
30 days, he use to tell me 30 days
30 thousand he'll say watch when you
start making money you gonna be like
ya Mama watch & see what i tell you
he'll say, and he would teach me to
always look down if his son's or friends
came around to show respect even tho
I was 9 and wasn't his He but I was
his step daughter. My Mama would just
sit there and look dumb. when I had my
14 birthday I got gifts he threw me

Pg.
(4)

pa(s)



a party and after everyone left

it was like \$'o'clock he said did you

get any money I said yeah he said

you wanna work for your first time

I said y u serious then my mama said

don't be scared it's just money \$\$\$

I said I'm only 14 teen he said you can

be 12 and make money I said do i have

to have a pimp he said you should

so he can manage ur money right

I said how do i get one I said not you

A. Amira

right he said HA HA then started @ me 4

he said no one will come across
 soon or later he said go with your
 Mom mind you i was living with them
 from 9-145 hes been teaching
 me the game for 5 yrs
 so i went with my mom she showed
 me what to do and how much to
 charge so when i went by my self i
 was scared after like 2 or 4 dates i
 was cool i made \$325 that nite for my
 first time i came home early and showed
 him he said good now go with agian
 i said wat forced that night i started some
 clothes got a room for a week i had
 every night then thats wen the pimp wigga
 mom came across to me

709
⑦

And after weeks and months of

nothing i chose up with him to

have some were to go and i

was fucking w/ him for 6 yrs

He just died and so im on my

Revenge stems well was. i got

to show you that i got me in

in my veins im a dedicated bitch

to a man PE that i would

please and love. now getting

money 24/7 aint enough i can have

for you all day i can get money

for you 25/8 I thank you 4 the

chance you gave me now its my turn to
show you what respect or decision.

4.4mi

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