

## **Child Trafficking in the United States**

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**Family and Youth Services Bureau  
Adolescent Pregnancy Prevention Program Webinar**

Washington, DC  
May 22, 2014



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## **Introduction**



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## Presidential Proclamation

*Over a century and a half after President Abraham Lincoln issued the Emancipation Proclamation, millions remain in bondage—children forced to take part in armed conflict or sold to brothels by their destitute families, men and women who toil for little or no pay, who are threatened and beaten if they try to escape. Slavery tears at our social fabric, fuels violence and organized crime, and debases our common humanity.*

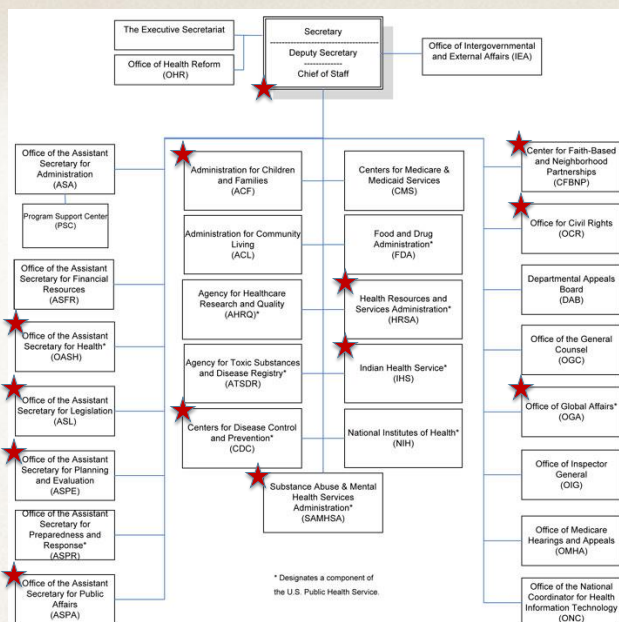
*During National Slavery and Human Trafficking Prevention Month, we renew our commitment to ending this scourge in all its forms...*

**Source:** <http://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/2013/12/31/presidential-proclamation-national-slavery-and-human-trafficking-prevent>



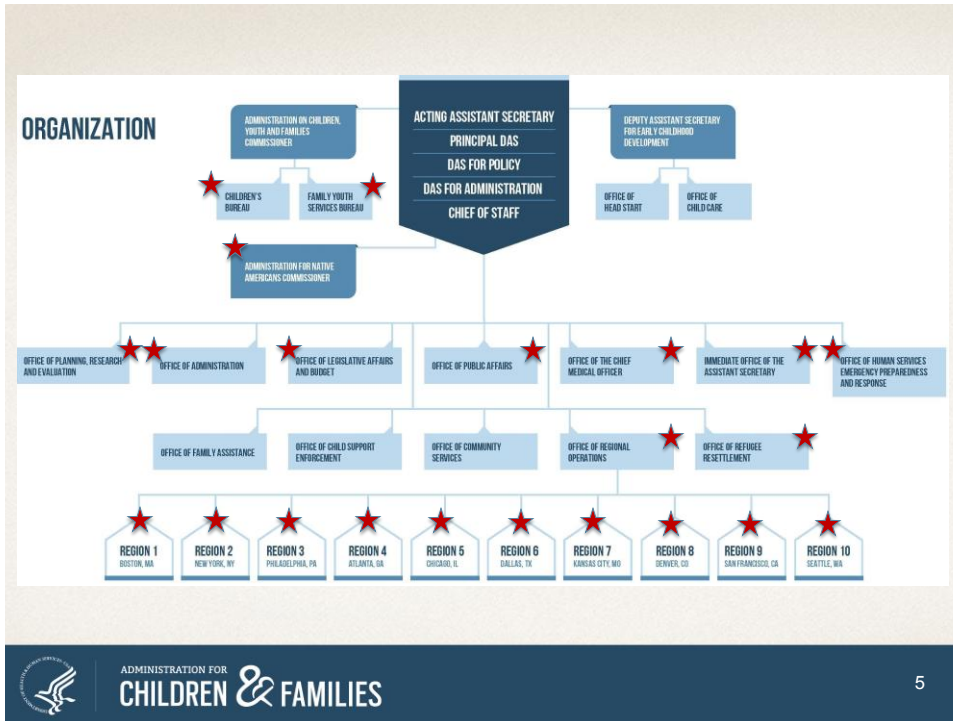
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## Federal Strategic Action Plan on Services to Victims of Human Trafficking in the United States

## Plan Co-Chairs



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## Background

The Federal Strategic Action Plan is part of the ongoing efforts within the United States to combat human trafficking at home and abroad. In commemoration of the 150th anniversary of the Emancipation Proclamation, the Administration reaffirmed the American values of freedom and equality by asking federal agencies to develop a plan to strengthen services for victims of human trafficking in the United States:

*...we'll do even more to help victims recover and rebuild their lives. We'll develop a new action plan to improve coordination across the federal government. We're increasing access to services to help survivors become self-sufficient.*

President Obama, September 2012

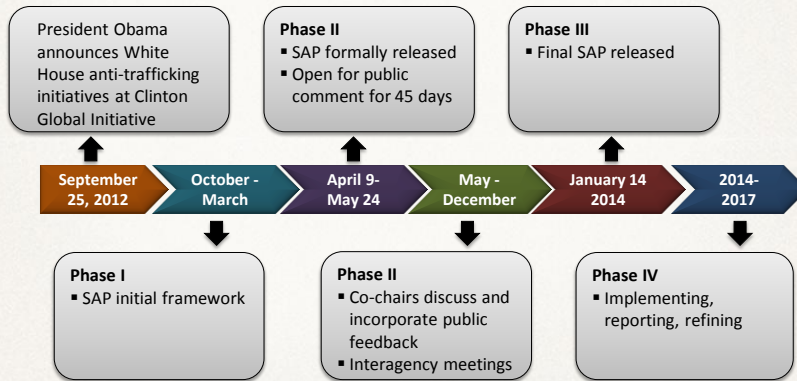


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## Timeline



## Vision

*We envision that every victim of human trafficking is identified and provided access to the services they need to recover and rebuild their lives through the creation of a responsive, sustainable, comprehensive, and trauma-informed services network that leverages public and private partnerships and resources effectively.*

\* \* \*

The Federal Strategic Action Plan lays out 4 goals, 8 objectives, and contains more than 250 associated action items for victim service improvements and describes the steps that federal agencies will take to ensure that all victims of human trafficking in the United States are identified and have access to the services they need to recover.



## Goals

- 1) **Align efforts** by promoting strategic and coordinated services for victims at the federal, regional, state, territorial, tribal, and local levels.
- 2) **Improve understanding** by expanding and coordinating human trafficking–related research, data, and evaluation to support evidence-based victim services.
- 3) **Expand access** to services by providing outreach, training, and technical assistance to increase victim identification and expand availability of services.
- 4) **Improve outcomes** by promoting effective, culturally appropriate, trauma-informed services that improve the short- and long-term health, safety, and well-being of victims.



## Webinar Learning Objectives

1. Define the scope, severity, and diversity of child trafficking in the United States.
2. Recognize the recruitment and control mechanisms of human trafficking operations.
3. Identify risk factors and indicators of child trafficking.
4. Access national and local resources for additional information.



## Objective 1

Define the scope, severity, and diversity of child trafficking in the United States.



## Definitions and Legal Framework



## True or False

Trafficking victims must be foreign nationals.

Trafficking requires state or international border crossing.

Trafficking victims will leave the situation when offered help.

If a victim consented prior to abuse or was paid, it can still be trafficking.

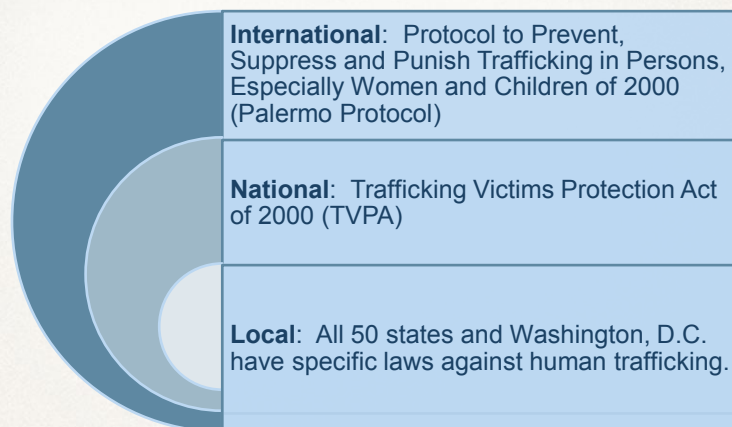
Source Credit: National Human Trafficking Resource Center



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## Legal Framework



Source Credit: National Human Trafficking Resource Center



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## Trafficking Victims Protection Act

### Sex Trafficking

- The recruitment, harboring, transportation, provision, or obtaining of a person for a commercial sex act, 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.

### Labor Trafficking

- The recruitment, harboring, transportation, provision, or obtaining of a person for labor or services, through the use of force, fraud, or coercion for the purpose of subjection to involuntary servitude, peonage, debt bondage, or slavery.



## Action – Means – Purpose

### Action

- Recruits
- Harbors
- Transports
- Provides
- Obtains
- or so attempts

### Means

- Force
- Fraud
- Coercion

### Purpose

- Commercial Sex Acts
- Labor or Services



## Sex Trafficking of Minors

**Force, Fraud, and Coercion** are not required for minors induced into commercial sex acts.

Action	Purpose
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Recruits</li> <li>• Harbors</li> <li>• Transports</li> <li>• Provides</li> <li>• Obtains,</li> <li>• or so attempts</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Commercial Sex Acts</li> </ul>



## Means

Force	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Physical assault</li> <li>• Sexual assault, rape</li> <li>• Physical confinement or isolation</li> </ul>
Fraud	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fraudulent employment offers</li> <li>• False promises about work and living conditions</li> <li>• Withholding wages</li> </ul>
Coercion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Threats to life, safety, family members, or others</li> <li>• Threats of deportation or arrest</li> <li>• Debt bondage</li> <li>• Withholding legal documents</li> <li>• Psychological manipulation</li> </ul>



## Case Examples



## Where Does Trafficking Occur?

### Sex Trafficking

Street prostitution	Massage parlors	Residential brothels
Escort services	Online exploitation	Hotels and motels
Truck stops	Hostess clubs/cantinas	Exotic dancing/stripping

### Labor Trafficking

Domestic servitude	Agriculture	Forestry, fishing
Construction	Peddling, begging	Factories
Service industry	Small businesses	

**Source Credit:** National Human Trafficking Resource Center



## Intimate Partner, Familial Trafficking

**Victims:** U.S. citizens or foreign nationals, adults or minors, males and females

**Controllers:** Parent or guardians, intimate partners, other immediate or extended family members

**Sex Trafficking:** Informal arrangements, escort services, brothels, pornography, exotic dancing, etc.

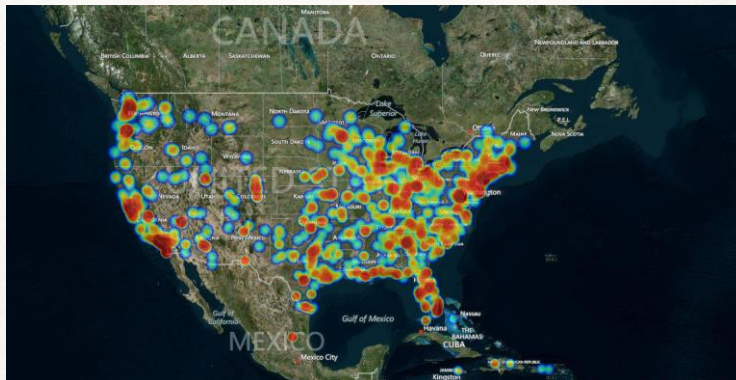
**Labor Trafficking:** Domestic servitude, peddling or begging, small business, restaurants, etc.



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## National Human Trafficking Resource Center Cases Reported (FY 2007–2012)



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## National Human Trafficking Resource Center Case Breakdown (FY 2008–2012)

December 7, 2007 to October 31, 2013 (last 5 years)

<b>13,689</b>	Total cases of human trafficking reported
<b>5,010</b>	Cases involving foreign national victims (37%)
<b>4,720</b>	Cases involving U.S. citizen and lawful permanent resident victims (34%)

October 1, 2011 to September 30, 2013 (last 2 years)

<b>7,946</b>	Total cases of human trafficking reported
<b>2,551</b>	Cases involving foreign national victims (32%)
<b>2,907</b>	Cases involving U.S. citizen and lawful permanent resident victims (37%)



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## National Human Trafficking Resource Center: Labor Trafficking Cases

Identified over **400** potential cases of child labor trafficking, including:

- Sales crews/peddling rings (196 cases)
- Domestic work (25 cases)
- Restaurant work (24 cases)
- Small business (17 cases)
- Agriculture (7 cases)

Identified potential labor trafficking cases across several industries with **19** involving small businesses.



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## Objective 2

Recognize the recruitment and control mechanisms of human trafficking operations.



## Who Are the Traffickers?

### Individuals

Pimps  
Foreign diplomats

Neighbors, friends, relatives  
Labor recruiters/brokers

### Informal criminal operations

Family or extended family  
Pimp networks

Gangs

### Businesses (small or large)

Small contractors/agents  
International organized crime

Labor recruiters

**Source Credit:** National Human Trafficking Resource Center



## Targeted Recruitment

"What would you look for? Broken bones, unhappy with parents, abused by some sucker." – Former pimp

"I liked to get my best girls from another state and bring them back where they knew no one and I was their only friend and focus..."  
- Former pimp

"Girls who ran away from home or were put out by their parents. Ladies who were pretty but were on welfare, dropouts, you know you can smell desperation. If she is hungry, she will go." – Former pimp

**Source:** Jody Raphael and Brenda Myers, From Victims to Victimiziers; interviews with 25 ex-pimps in Chicago (September 2010)



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## Child Welfare and Child Trafficking

**59%** of the 174 juveniles arrested on prostitution-related charges in the county were in the foster care system and victims were often recruited by sex traffickers and pimps from group homes (Lost Angeles Police Department)

**50% to 80%** of victims of commercial sexual exploitation, including child sex trafficking, are or were formerly involved with child welfare (California Child Welfare Council)

**86 out of the 88** children identified as child sex trafficking victims had been involved with child welfare services in some manner (Connecticut Department of Children and Families)



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## Runaway and Homeless Youth and Child Trafficking

81% of missing children are endangered runaways

**1 out of 8** endangered runaways likely to be victims of human trafficking

(National Center for Missing and Exploited Children)

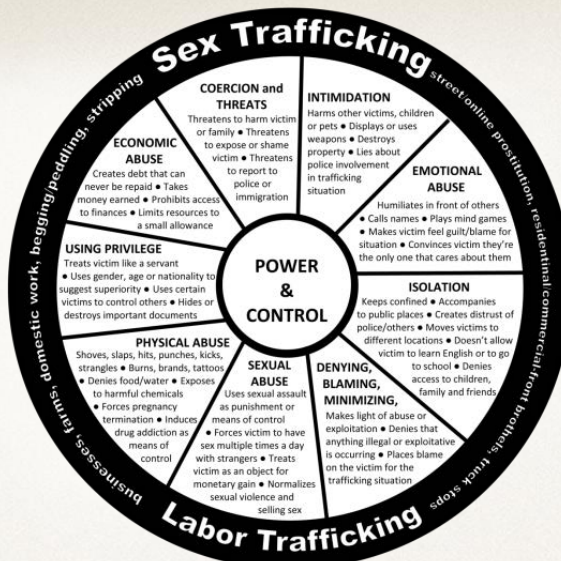
In a survey of 42 runaway and homeless youth organizations about child labor trafficking, 1 organization identified **150** child labor trafficking victims within a 3-year period. Another identified **122** child labor trafficking victims in the same time period.

(Alliance to End Slavery and Trafficking)



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Source Credit: National Human Trafficking Resource Center



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## Objective 3

Identify risk factors and indicators of child trafficking.



## Risk Factors: Prior Abuse

**70% to 90%** of commercially sexually exploited youth have a history of child sexual abuse.

Children who experience sexual abuse are **28 times** more likely to be arrested for prostitution at some point in their lives than children who did not.

In addition, youth who have experienced dating violence and rape are also at higher-risk for trafficking.

**Source:** Guidance to States and Services on Addressing Human Trafficking of Children and Youth in the United States



## Risk Factors: Isolation and Trauma

Some evidence suggests that lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, or questioning (LGBTQ) youth can be up to **five times** more likely than heterosexual youth to be victims of trafficking, due to increased susceptibility that comes with the feelings of rejection and alienation that are often experienced by LGBTQ youth.

Additionally, recent exploratory studies indicate that traffickers are targeting Native American children and youth who have trauma-related risk factors.

Source: Guidance to States and Services on Addressing Human Trafficking of Children and Youth in the United States



## Challenges to Identification

Barriers to victim self-identification

Persistent perception that prostitution is victimless crime or the person engaging in it is a criminal even if that person is a minor

Law enforcement not trained to identify

Social service providers not trained to identify

General public not aware

Variation on definitions used

Language barriers, fear, debt bondage, isolation, misinformation





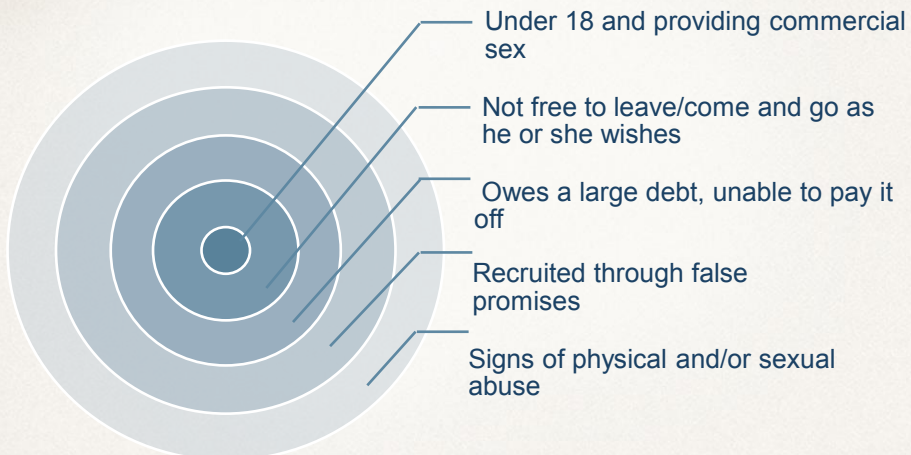
## Indicators



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## General



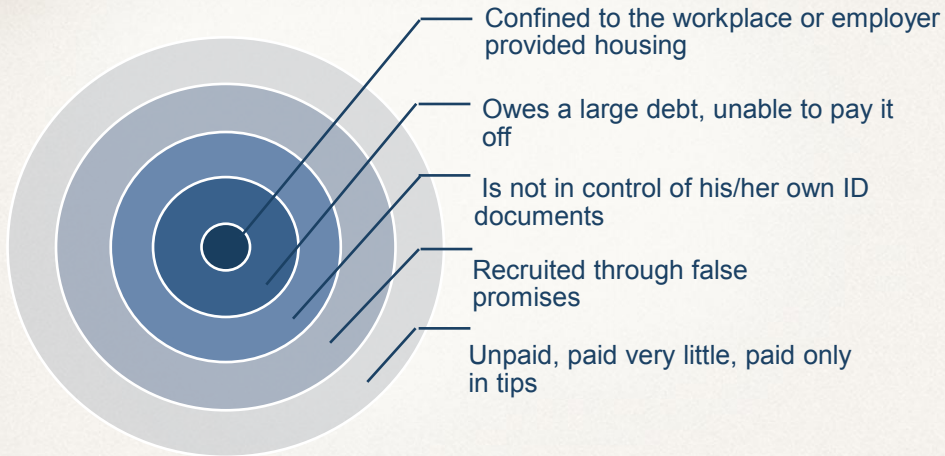
**Source Credit:** National Human Trafficking Resource Center



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## Labor Trafficking



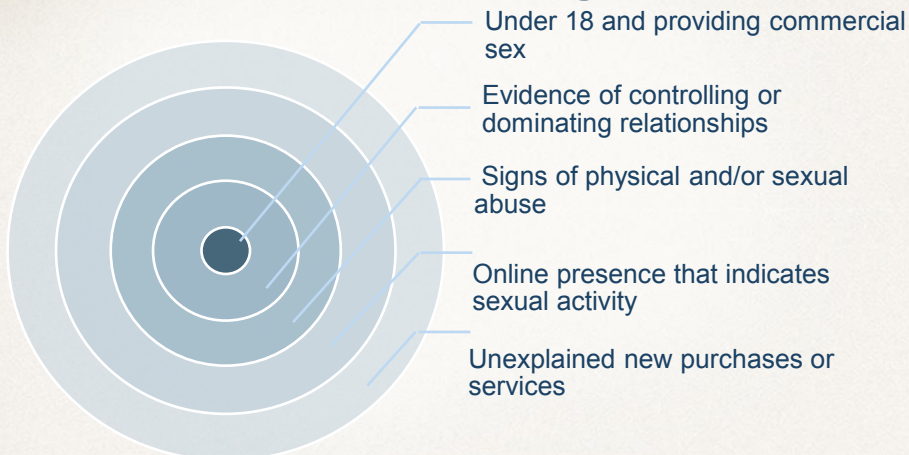
**Source Credit:** National Human Trafficking Resource Center



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## Child Sex Trafficking



**Source Credit:** National Human Trafficking Resource Center



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## Health Indicators

**Physical health** problems associated with beatings and rapes, including broken bones and untreated wounds and injuries

**Reproductive health** problems, including exposure to HIV and other sexually transmitted infections (STIs), fertility issues, and other gynecological diagnoses associated with sexual violence and rape

**Mental health** problems, including post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) and somatic complaints (e.g., headaches, chronic pain), resulting from trauma

### **Malnutrition**

**Alcohol and other drug use**, which may be forced by the trafficker or used as a coping mechanism for abuse and trauma, and often leads to addiction



## Additional Indicators

Evidence of physical, mental, or emotional abuse

Inability to speak on one's own behalf

Inability to speak to an official alone

Excess amounts of cash on hand

Working for long hours, often with little or no pay

Presence of older male or boyfriend who seems controlling

Loyalty and positive feelings toward trafficker

Exhibition of fear, tension, shame, humiliation, nervousness

Lack of ability or unwillingness to identify him/herself as victim

Over-sexualized behavior



## Additional Indicators

- Chronic running away
- Irregular school attendance
- References frequent travel to other cities
- Signs of emotional distress, including depression, withdrawn behavior, and anxiety, submissive behaviors, paranoia
- Lacks personal identification documents
- Unusual attachment to cellphone
- Strange tattoos
- Inappropriate dress
- Sudden change in possessions



## Objective 4

Access national and local resources for additional information.



## ACF Child Trafficking Guidance

Introduction  
 The scope and nature of child trafficking  
 Understanding the needs of victims  
 Coordination  
 Screening and assessment  
 Intervening to meet the needs of trafficking victims  
 Emerging shelter and service considerations  
 Child welfare responses  
 Additional assistance available to child victims of human trafficking  
 Resources

Available at: [https://www.acf.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/cb/acyf\\_human\\_trafficking\\_guidance.pdf](https://www.acf.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/cb/acyf_human_trafficking_guidance.pdf)



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## Emerging Practices

Instituting mandatory screening  
 Placing specialized advocates in child welfare centers  
 Coordinating with the Department of Juvenile Justice and county courts  
 Training case workers  
 Participating in broad coalitions  
 Centralizing listings of victim services  
 Coordinating with local children's hospitals and child advocacy centers  
 Coordinating with local rape crisis and sexual assault centers  
 Coordinating on data collection  
 Providing state guidance for Child Protective Services investigations

Available at: [https://www.acf.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/assets/briefing\\_spotlight\\_b.pdf](https://www.acf.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/assets/briefing_spotlight_b.pdf)



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## National Human Trafficking Resource Center (NHTRC)

1-888-3737-888

Text BEFREE (233-733)

[www.traffickingresourcecenter.org](http://www.traffickingresourcecenter.org)



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## NHTRC Services

### Crisis Response

- Nationwide 9-1-1
- Afterhours contacts
- 3,500+ organizations and service providers

### Tip Reporting

- Local and federal law enforcement
- Specialized task forces

### Referrals

- Shelter
- Case management
- Legal services
- Related hotlines and fields

### Training and Technical Assistance

- Trainings
- Phone consultations
- Peer-to-peer support
- General information



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## Recap: Learning Objectives

1. Define the scope, severity, and diversity of child trafficking in the United States.
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3. Identify risk factors and indicators of child trafficking.
4. Access national and local resources for additional information.



## Contact

### **Katherine Chon**

Senior Advisor on Trafficking in Persons  
Administration for Children & Families (ACF)

**Email:** [Katherine.Chon@acf.hhs.gov](mailto:Katherine.Chon@acf.hhs.gov)



# Positive Youth Outcome Project

**Peggy Pecchio, Executive Director,**  
Operation Keepsake, Inc.

**Cheryl Biddle, Executive Director,**  
Alliance for Healthy Youth



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**"Estimated 2,000 youths are caught in the underground web of human trafficking in Ohio each year."**

Ohio State Alumni Association



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toledoohio.com

“Toledo ranks fourth in the nation—following Miami, Portland, and Las Vegas—in the number of investigations, arrests, and rescues of trafficking victims.” Ohio State Alumni Association



www.operationkeepsake.com

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“Ohio cited  
13 years old as the most  
common age in Ohio for  
youth to become victims  
of child sex trafficking.”

Ohio Human Trafficking Commission



www.operationkeepsake.com

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Ohio seeks to reduce the numbers and the vulnerabilities of potential victims of human trafficking through:

- Awareness
- Education
- Outreach

Ohio Human Trafficking Commission



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The mission of Operation Keepsake, Inc. is to challenge young people to develop healthy relationships so that they may develop to their fullest potential in life.



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## Operation Keepsake, Inc. *For Keeps* relationship education curriculum:

- Identify emotional safeguards and physical boundaries to reduce vulnerability.
- Understand the warning signs or red flags of abusive relationships.
- Increase self-efficacy in assertiveness and conflict resolution skills.
- Develop a personal support system.



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- **Friends4Friends Campaign** is designed to strengthen youth's confidence to seek appropriate help for their friends.
- When being abused, a young people may confide in a friend before he/she tells a parent or adult.
- Friends entrusted with a harmful secret often do not know what to do.



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### Friends4Friends Campaign

- **Listen.** Let your friend share what is happening without interrupting. Do not overreact. Stay calm.
- **Have courage.** Tell your friend that the two of you cannot handle the situation alone. You will need to talk to a parent or adult.
- **Be strong.** Your friend may not want to talk to anyone, but talking to an adult will help you get the support and protection that you and your friend may need.
- **Keep in mind.** You may be the only person your friend feels safe confiding in. Your friend needs you today.
- **Remember.** Tomorrow you may need your friend.



www.operationkeepsake.com

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### Peer Leadership Council

- DVD of short films designed to raise awareness of bullying, dating violence, and human trafficking
- Annual community Walk-A-Thon
- Save Our Adolescents from Prostitution (S.O.A.P.)



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## ***For Keeps* relationship education curriculum with equine-assisted learning components**

Developed for at-risk youth involved in:

- Foster care
- Juvenile justice system



www.operationkeepsake.com

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## **Not in Our Neighborhood Campaign**

Awareness program for parents, teachers, and school administrators:

- Vulnerability factors
- Indicators
- Resources



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## Alliance for Healthy Youth

Empowering, encouraging, and educating youth to make and keep healthy lifestyle choices.



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## Alliance for Healthy Youth

- Project service area:
  - Mid-size urban city
  - Demographics
- Target populations:
  - High school students
  - Foster care
  - Homeless



www.operationkeepsake.com

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## Project Program Services

- High schools:
  - Peer educators advocate healthy decision making
  - Curriculum education for healthy relationships
  - Small group sessions at schools reinforce peers and curriculum
  - Service learning: SOAP
- Foster care youth:
  - Curriculum and equine-assisted learning
  - Mobile App



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## Identify Human Trafficking Resources

- Community:
  - State
  - Courts
  - Churches
  - Collaborative
  - Youth



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## Identify Human Trafficking Resources

*Somebody's Daughter* by Julien Sher

*Girls Like Us* by Rachel Lloyd

*The Slave Across the Street* by Theresa Flores

*Not For Sale* by David Batstone

*The Good News About Injustice* by Gary Haugen

*Walking Prey: How America's Youth Are Vulnerable to Sex Slavery*

by Holly Austin Smith



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## Contact

**Cheryl Biddle, Executive Director,**

Alliance for Healthy Youth

**Email:** [Cbiddle@all4youth.org](mailto:Cbiddle@all4youth.org)

**Peggy Pecchio, Executive Director,**

Operation Keepsake, Inc.

**Email:** [PPecchio@operationkeepsake.com](mailto:PPecchio@operationkeepsake.com)



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# POHSEY: A Collaborative Response to Sex Trafficking in Wisconsin

Wendi Ehrman MD  
Tia Medley FNP-BC

Milwaukee Adolescent Health Program



## Proactive Outreach for the Health of Sexually Exploited Youth

- Event inspiring project
- Milwaukee Data
- Existing local responses
- Development of POHSEY
- POHSEY Goals and Tasks
- POHSEY Future





## Commercially Sexually Exploited Youth Project Definition

Child treated as sexual and commercial object:

- Sex for Money
- Sex for Drugs
- Sex for Survival
- Stripping for money
- Pornography
- Internet sex



## Operation Cross Country (July 2013)

- **Nationwide prostitution sting targeting underage victims**
  - Conducted by the FBI in partnership with local, state, and federal law enforcement agencies and the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children
  - Was the seventh and largest sting to date
  - Occurred over a 3-day period in 76 cities
  - Involved canvassing areas known for prostitution
  - Offered victims services, including job training, housing, counseling, and medical and education assistance
  - Recovered 105 sexually exploited children
    - ❖ San Francisco: 12
    - ❖ Detroit: 10
    - ❖ **Milwaukee: 10**
    - ❖ Denver: 9
    - ❖ New Haven and New Orleans: 6



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## Human Trafficking in Wisconsin

- **Wisconsin Office of Justice Assistance Survey\***

- Surveyed > 1,300 service providers, law enforcement and district attorneys about victim interactions from 2000 to 2007
- Results:
  - 200 suspected victims of trafficking from 2000 to 2007
  - Trafficking occurred in > 50% of Wisconsin's 72 counties (urban and rural)
  - 75% were victims of sex trafficking crimes
  - 15% were child victims of Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children (CSEC -under 18 years)

\*Wisconsin Office of Justice Assistance, *Hidden in Plain Sight: A Baseline Survey of Human Trafficking in Wisconsin: February 2008*



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## Data on CSEC

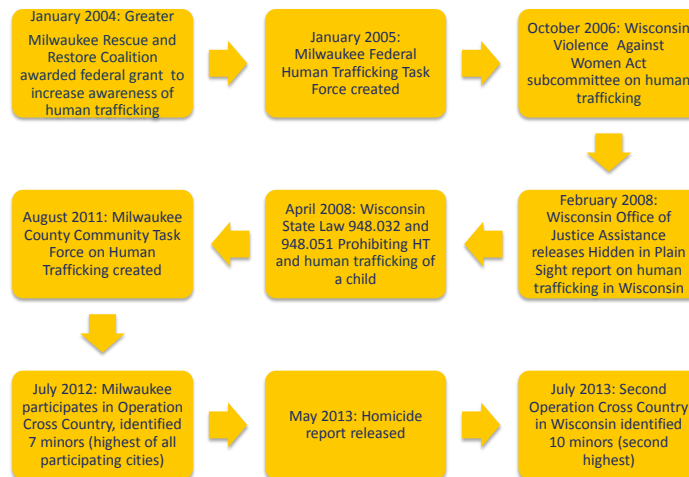
### Milwaukee Homicide Review Commission's Report, 2013

- **Purpose:**
  - Estimate the number of youth trafficked via Milwaukee Police Department (MPD) and court reports
  - Create a demographic profile of trafficked youth
  - Obtain descriptive information about the status of youth at the time of contact with the MPD
- **Results:**
  - 77 youth victims identified from 2010 to 2012
  - 92% were female
  - Ranged in age from 12 to 17, 68% were age 16 or 17
  - 66% were reported to be missing at some point
  - 29% had experienced previous sexual assault
  - 10% had experienced prior child abuse



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## Milwaukee Sex Trafficking Response Timeline



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## Proactive Outreach for the Health of Sexually Exploited Youth (POHSEY)

- Coordinated effort to improve identification, treatment, and awareness of CSEC in Milwaukee
- Collaborators:
  - Wrap Around Milwaukee: Mental Health
  - Milwaukee Adolescent Health Program (MAHP): Medical
  - District Attorney's Office: Legal
  - ReThink Resources: Advocacy and Survivor Support
- Timeline: 2 years



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## History of POHSEY Development

- Increased identification of CSEC youth at juvenile detention and primary care clinic.
- Multiple meetings/groups focusing on CSEC with overlap
  - Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative
  - Children Hospital of Wisconsin Trafficking Group
  - Milwaukee County Human Trafficking Mental Health Group
  - Human Trafficking Task Force of Greater Milwaukee
- Frustration over lack of response, recidivism, lack of medical institution awareness, lack of coordination and gaps in care and treatment
- Identification of Healthier Wisconsin Partnership Program grant to research the problem and identify strategies for prevention, identification, care, and training



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## POHSEY Goals

- Identify the extent of the problem in Milwaukee
- Develop a vulnerability index
- Develop better screening tools
- Create teaching modules and community presentations
- Create a community and victim resource manual
- Improve referral and collaboration of services



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## POHSEY Tasks

- Create collaborative database
- Review and revise existing tools for identification
- Collaborate with community partners to develop protocols for urgent medical response in:
  - Emergency rooms/urgent care centers
  - Primary care clinics
  - Juvenile detention centers
- Identify and vet resources for both community agencies and CSEC victims
- Create teaching modules for health/mental health care providers
- Create teaching modules for community agencies
- Continue involvement and collaboration with local task forces and groups



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## MAHP Preventative Efforts

- Prevention services offered by MAHP staff:
  - Youth-based trainings
  - Youth worker training
  - PREP facilitator training
  - Community outreach
  - Milwaukee Public Schools outreach
  - Medical College of Wisconsin trainings
  - Juvenile detention center CSEC screenings; risk identification; sexual health; STI screening, prophylaxis, and treatment; and reproductive services and referral for Long Acting Reversible Contraception (LARC).



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## MAHP CSEC Prevention Strategies

- Encourage teens to practice safe, smart habits when using social networking Websites and blogs
- Facilitate education and trainings for at-risk children and adolescents, victims and survivors, and service providers on sexuality and short-term and LARC options
- Improve identification of risk factors for CSEC
- Offer harm reduction strategies to teens to reduce entry into CSEC
- Identify Internet and other electronic threats
- Create and distribute CSEC guidelines, public awareness initiatives, best practices and resources
- Provide victims with direct support and assistance
- Facilitate interagency coordination of services to CSEC to ensure continuous, sensitive, and timely care



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## POHSEY/MAHP Future Activities

- Train victims advocates/crisis workers
- Improve coordination of care through case management
- Increase training for community agencies
- Increase outreach and public awareness initiatives to statewide stakeholders
- Create a 24-hour hotline for victims and service providers to access resources
- Expand access to appropriate services with “trauma-sensitive” training
- Develop a youth-based resource book with a resource card and IOS and Android-based applications



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## POHSEY/MAHP

### Contact information

Milwaukee Adolescent Health Program  
c/o Downtown Health Center  
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