


mn DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

Minnesota Safe Harbor
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 StreetWorks Beyond the 101:
 A Southwest Multidisciplinary Safe Harbor Conference

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Commercial Sexual Exploitation
 Eligibility for Safe Harbor Services for Youth Ages 24 and younger



Anything of value (e.g., money, drugs, food, shelter, rent, or higher status in a gang or group)

- OR -

a **promise** of anything of value is given to a person by any means in exchange for any type of sexual activity.

A third party may or may not be involved.

Who are the traffickers?

Traffickers can be anyone

- Range from large scale national and international crime networks to small scale individuals recruiting individuals
- Pimps, brothel owners, salon owners
- Neighbors, friends, "boyfriends", "girlfriends", family members

Mapping the Demand: Sex Buyers in the State of Minnesota 2017

- Sex buyers are *predominantly* **middle-aged, white, married men** from across the state of Minnesota.
- Many buyers seek young adult victims, with some willing to buy sex from a minor. **Some sex buyers specifically seek out minors.**
- Most sex buyers travel during the workday between **30-60 miles** to buy sex. Some will travel farther to purchase minors or individuals in specialty market-segments.
- Buyers also purchase sex during business trips, bachelor parties, and hunting and fishing trips.

Martin, et al, Urban Research and Outreach-Engagement Center (UROC), U of M

Who are the victims?

Victims can be any age, gender, race or ethnicity

People may be **more** at risk to be trafficked if they...

- Have mental health issues and/or chemical dependency
- Have physical and/or cognitive disabilities
- Are children or youth
- Are persons of color
- Are homeless
- Are lesbian, gay, bisexual, or transgender, gender non-conforming
- Lack immigration status
- Are in trouble with the law
- Are runaways
- Experience poverty

How Does Trafficking Happen?

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graph LR; A[CORE NEED unmet] --> C[FALSE PROMISE to meet need]; B[VULNERABILITY unprotected] --> C; C == D[EXPLOITATION AND TRAFFICKING]
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Source: Deborah's Gate | www.deborahsgate.ca

Potential Signs of Sex Trafficking

- Person has an abrupt change in attire, behavior, or relationships
- The presence of an older “boyfriend” or “girlfriend”
- Travel with an older male/female who is not a guardian
- Sudden presence of expensive material possessions
- Youth lacks control over his/her schedule, money, and/or proof of identification
- Signs of physical trauma, including bruises, cuts, burns, and/or scars
- Lying about age, where they’ve been, who they’ve been with, etc.

What is a Trauma-Coerced Attachment?

Powerful psychological manipulation by traffickers - Victims who believe they are in love with their trafficker are easier to manipulate and control.

The diagram consists of two arrows pointing towards each other. On the left, a blue arrow points right with the text 'Intermittent “love”, intimacy, and attention'. On the right, an orange arrow points left with the text 'Intermittent and predictable abuse and manipulation'.

Doychak & Raghavan 2019, Journal of Human Trafficking

Why don't victims leave?

Fear

- Actual or threatened abuse/sexual assault/violence to self, family, friends
- Making an “example” of another victim
- Threat of criminal prosecution or deportation
- Blackmail

Dependency

- Withholding money or identity documents
- Only source of housing, food, clothes
- Posing as “friend/boyfriend/concerned relative” to induce guilt and feeling indebted
- Causing or exploiting pregnancy, chemical dependency, etc.
- Isolation from support networks, service providers, others

Psychological Factors

- “I agreed to it so it’s not illegal”
- “This is my choice”
- “I’ve done too much to go back to a normal life”
- Mind normalizes situation as defense mechanism

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Minnesota's Response to Sex Trafficking - No Wrong Door



Safe Harbor Law

Sexually exploited youth
17 years old and under
can no longer be criminalized for engaging in prostitution but should be referred to services.

Sexually exploited and at risk youth
24 years old and under
deserve and are eligible for specialized, trauma-informed services to heal and recover.

Safe Harbor Statewide Services



- Regional Navigators and Specialized Community Services
- OVC Expansion Grant to include Labor Trafficking
- Training & Technical Assistance
- Youth Outreach Materials
- Wilder Evaluation Report
- Safe Harbor for All
- Labor Trafficking Protocol Guidelines
- Specialized Housing/Shelter
- Youth Outreach
- Child Protection/Child Welfare
- Vulnerable Adult Protection
- Missing and Endangered Persons
- Internet Crimes Against Children
- 3 Regional Law Enforcement Task Forces
- 1 Statewide Task Force run by the BCA: 24/7 reporting 651-793-7000
- Training/Consultation for Law Enforcement on Sex Trafficking Investigations
- Protocol Guidelines
- Safe Harbor Protocol Team Formation Starter Kit: A Guide for New Teams
- Protocol Implementation

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Safe Harbor Shelter and Housing

Shelter

- Short-term residential care with the purpose of providing youth who are victims of sexual exploitation a clean, safe place to stay, and stabilization services.

Supportive Housing (congregate and independent)

- Longer-term housing and supportive services for youth who have experienced sexual exploitation or trafficking to attain and maintain stability and independence.

Outreach

- Locate, identify and build relationships with vulnerable and homeless youth, in order to interrupt exploitation by working to meet immediate needs and provide resources.

Minnesota's Child Protection Response to Human Trafficking and Exploitation

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graph LR
    A((Child Sex Trafficking)) --- B((Sex Abuse))
    B --- C((Child Abuse and Neglect))
    C --> D((Investigation (24 hour response)))
  
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The Basics

- Sex trafficking of a child is a mandated report in Minnesota, even if the alleged trafficker is a non-caregiver/ household member. When in doubt, report.
- Sex trafficking requires three parts:
 - ACTOR:** Third party trafficker (not the buyer or victim)
 - ACTION:** Receiving, recruiting harboring, providing, or obtaining; or profiting
 - ACT:** Aid in the prostitution of an individual
- Reports of sexual exploitation (without a third party) or labor trafficking should be referred to voluntary child welfare services through the county or tribal agency.
- Law enforcement and county or tribal child welfare agencies must promptly cross report.

When to report?

Sexually exploited youth (260C.007)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Only if parents, caregivers, household members or person in a position of authority involved
Commercial sexual exploitation (Safe Harbor program definition, implied 626.556)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Only if parents, caregivers, household members or person in a position of authority involved
Known or suspected sex trafficking (referenced in 626.556, defined 609.321)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Always must be reported, no matter who you think the trafficker is

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SAFE HARBOR YOUTH OUTREACH MATERIALS

Primary Safe Harbor Posters (2 versions)

5 X 7 Outreach Card

Business card size outreach cards (2 versions)

Sticker that will fit on a variety of outreach materials

SAFE HARBOR YOUTH OUTREACH MATERIALS

NOT A NUMBER

A CHILD TRAFFICKING AND EXPLOITATION PREVENTION CURRICULUM DEVELOPED BY LOVE146

<https://love146.org/notanumber/>
