



CATE



Information ● Inspiration Series

Human Trafficking 101

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Missouri Coalition Against Trafficking and Exploitation

www.mocate.org

Mission

The Missouri Coalition Against Trafficking and Exploitation (CATE) is a united community movement to prevent and respond to human trafficking and exploitation.

Vision

Community: Educated, Aware,
Supportive



Mission

Healing Action partners with survivors and the community to end commercial sexual exploitation. We do this through community awareness, client advocacy, and a comprehensive array of services.

Population

Serving adult (18+) survivors of commercial sexual exploitation (prostitution, stripping/dancing, pornography, etc.)

Services

Peer Support | Service Management | Trauma Therapy | Long Term Supportive Housing | Psychoeducation Groups | Recovery Fellowship | Survivor Leadership



Sensitive Material

PLEASE EXCUSE YOURSELF AND
TAKE A BREAK AT ANY POINT.

Our Words Matter

WHAT DO YOU THINK OF
WHEN YOU HEAR THE WORD

Prostitution








Prostitution

The practice or occupation of engaging in sexual activity with someone for payment.



WHAT DO YOU THINK OF
WHEN YOU HEAR THE TERM

Sex Trafficking







Sex Trafficking

Any commercial sex act involving someone under the age of 18 (the average age being 12-14 years old); or a commercial sex act involving adults induced by force, fraud, or coercion.

WHAT DO YOU THINK OF
WHEN YOU HEAR THE TERM

Labor Trafficking?



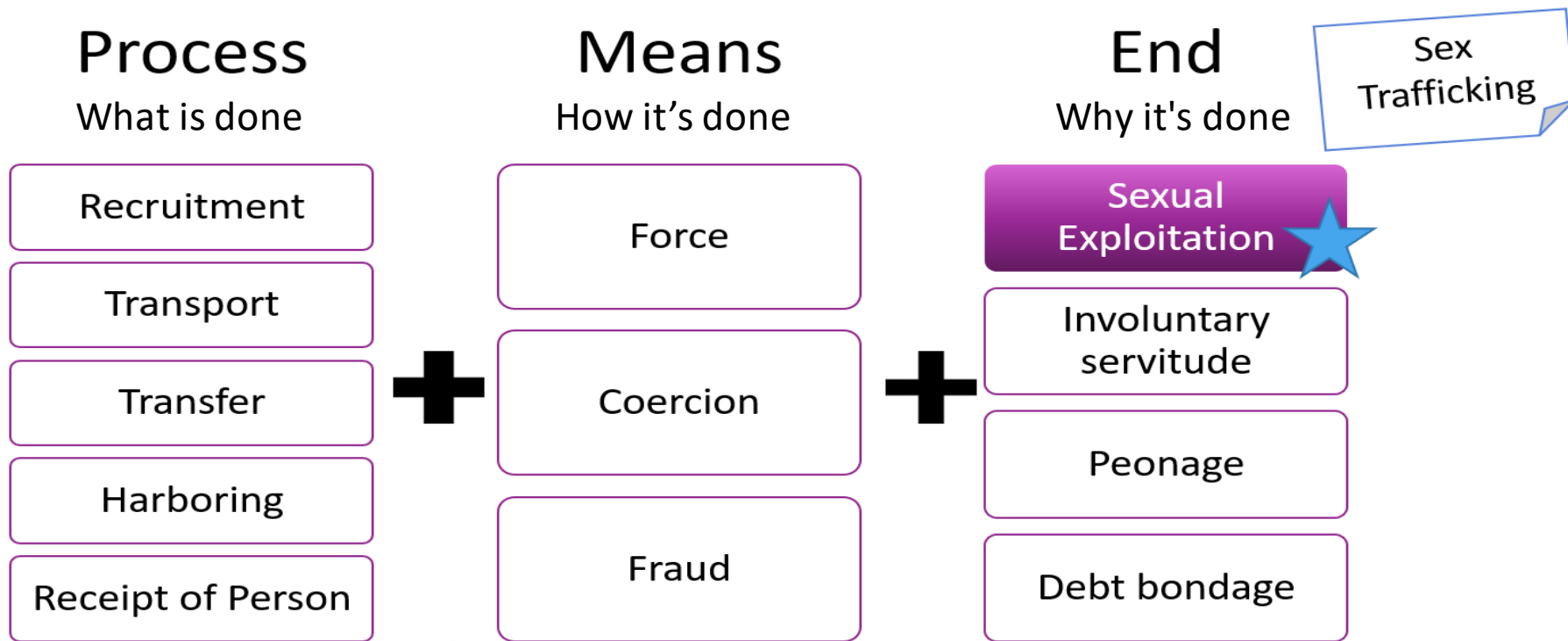




Labor Trafficking

The use of force, fraud, or coercion to recruit, harbor, transport, obtain, or employ a person for labor or services in involuntary servitude, peonage, or debt bondage.

Human Trafficking Defined



Federal Definition of Human Trafficking

- Adults = Process + Mean + End
- 17 & Under = Process + End

Common Terms

Pimp, Boyfriend,
Daddy

Turn Out

Track

Quota

Seasoning/Grooming

Branding

John

Bottom

Stable/Family

Domestic vs. International

Domestic Trafficking

- The trafficking of a person within the boundaries of one country
- No international borders are crossed from the time of recruitment to exploitation

International Trafficking

- The trafficking of a person that involves the crossing of at least 1 international border (transported through a minimum of 2 countries)
- Crossing of borders with a trafficked person can be done legally, with valid documentation, but can also be done illegally with no documents or fake ones

Labor Trafficking

Labor traffickers – include recruiters, contractors, employers, and others

Violence, threats, lies, debt bondage, or other forms of coercion to force people to work against their will

In the United States, common types of labor trafficking include

- people forced to work in homes as domestic servants
- farmworkers coerced through violence as they harvest crops
- factory workers held in inhumane conditions

Labor trafficking has also been reported

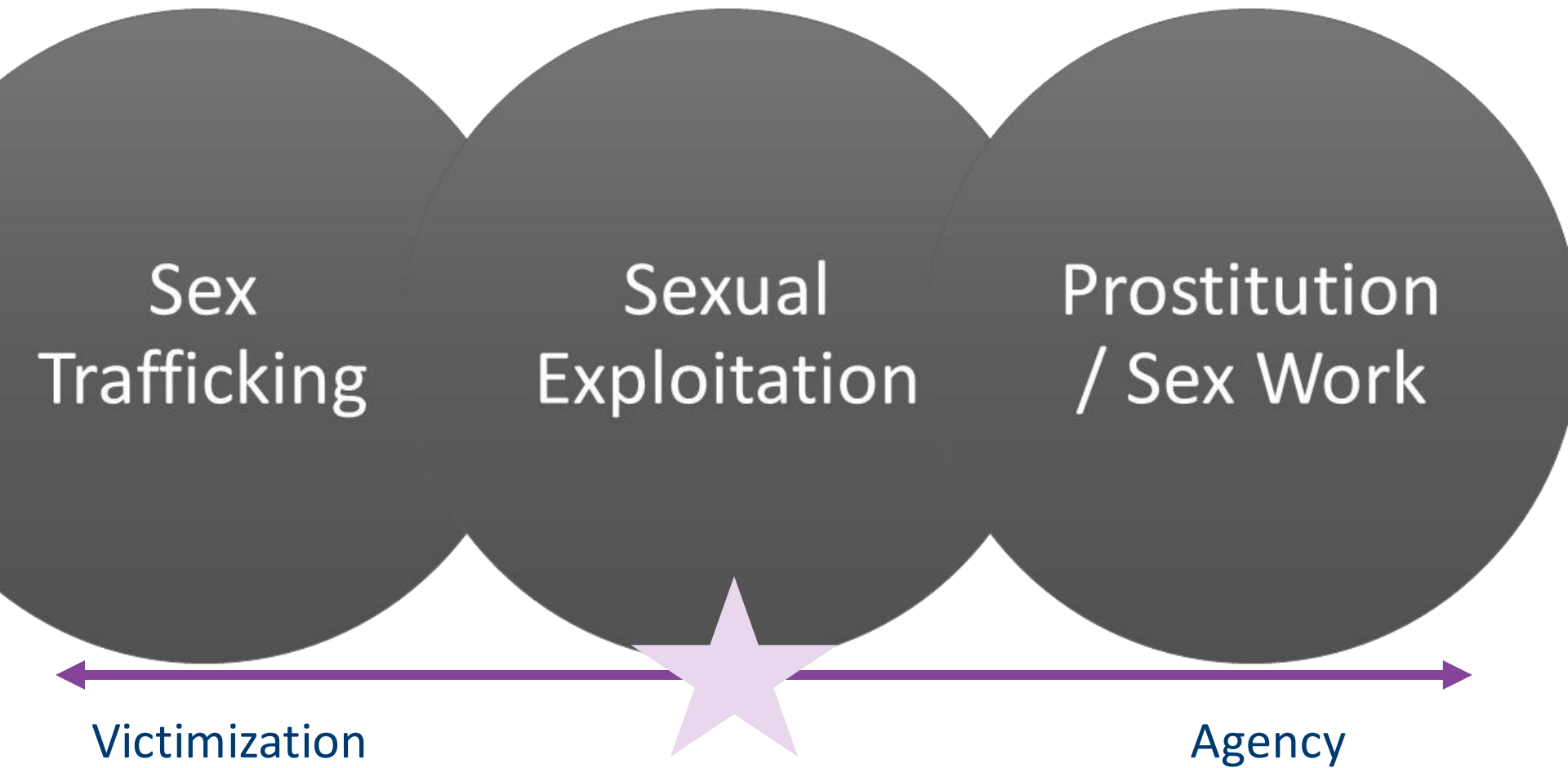
- door-to-door sales crews, restaurants, construction work, carnivals, and health and beauty services

Labor Trafficking Key Statistics

- Globally, the International Labor Organization estimates that there are 20.1 million people trapped in forced labor in industries including agriculture, construction, domestic work and manufacturing.
- The U.S. Department of Labor has identified 148 goods from 76 countries made by forced and child labor.
- Since 2007, the National Human Trafficking Hotline, operated by Polaris, received reports of more than 7,800 labor trafficking cases inside the United States.

2019 Top 3 US Industries

1. Agriculture
2. Domestic Work
3. Traveling Sales



Spectrum of Exploitation



True or False?

IT IS ONLY CONSIDERED HUMAN
TRAFFICKING IF THE VICTIM IS
UNDER THE AGE OF 18.

Reality



All commercial sex involving a minor is legally human trafficking.

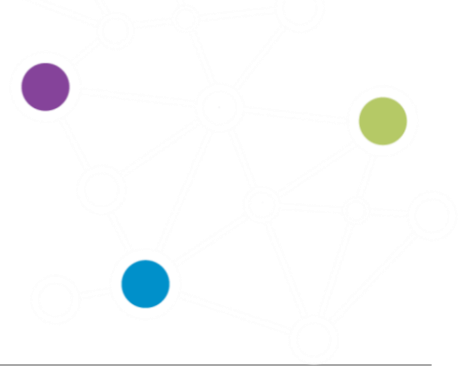
Commercial sex involving an adult is human trafficking if the person providing commercial sex is doing so against his or her will as a result of force, fraud or coercion.



True or False?

MOST TRAFFICKING HAPPENS BY
PERSONS WHO ARE STRANGERS TO
THEIR VICTIMS.

Reality



Many survivors have been trafficked by romantic partners, including spouses, and by family members, including parents.

Trafficking by Family

Family members are involved in nearly half of child trafficking cases

The majority of children trafficked for sexual exploitation are aged 15 - 17

Recruitment into Trafficking:

Family/Relative	41%
Intimate Partner	14%
Friend	11%
Other	34%



Trafficking by Intimate Partners

98% of children that have been recruited into trafficking by an intimate partners end up in situations of forced sexual exploitation

Nearly all are girls (96%)

Adults are more frequently recruited into trafficking by an intimate partner

91% of trafficking for the purpose Sexual Exploitation involved intimate partners



Is Prostitution a Choice?



Reality

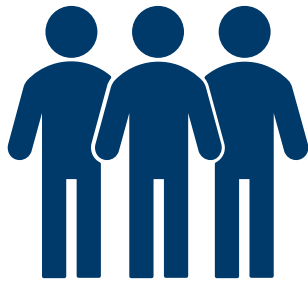


Initial consent to commercial sex or a labor setting prior to acts of force, fraud, or coercion (or if the victim is a minor in a sex trafficking situation) is not relevant to the crime, nor is payment

Common Heard Phrase because they “knew better”

Prevalence

Estimates in the U.S. range from 5k to 10m



Numbers are difficult to generate for the following reasons:

- It is tangled up in a criminal enterprise, making research unsafe for survivors and difficult for researchers
- Sexual exploitation is often misidentified
- Other crimes are associated with sexual exploitation victims and thereby resulting in the criminalization of the victim

What We Do Know

Survival sex as youth have been found to be a prevalent form of sex trafficking

15% of St. Louis homeless youth (Mostly 18 – 24) had experienced trafficking

40% of homeless LGBTQ had been victims

29% of all sex trafficking victims had been involved in the foster care system

More calls, texts, and contacts were made to the Polaris Project in 2019 than any previous year, with 587 in Missouri alone

The St Louis Metropolitan Police Department reported Human Trafficking cases grew by 250% between 2015 and 2018



Past, Present, Future

Identification

Before Asking Questions

Do I need to know for **MY ROLE**?

- Answer is No – Don't ask
- Answer is Yes – See Below

Do I need to know **NOW**?

- Answer is NO – Wait
- Answer is Yes – See Below

Is this the **RIGHT PLACE** to ask?

- Answer is NO – Wait
- Answer is Yes – Ask Question

Identification: General Indicators



No access to personal identification documents, state ID, passport, etc.

Inconsistencies in story regarding where they live, when they came to their current location, and lack of knowledge about the city/state they are in. May say they are “Just visiting.”

Not allowed contact to family/friends

Not allowed to leave a living/working situation unless monitored

Signs of abuse, physical restraint, confinement, malnourishment, torture, branding from tattoos or burning

Not allowed to speak for themselves

Hypervigilance or exhibits a loss of sense of time & space

Not in control of own money

Identification: General Questions

Does anyone control you or tell you what to do?

How did you meet this person?

Is your communication ever restricted or monitored?

Do you have access to all your personal information and documents?

Do you have access to all the money you earn?

What are your expectations of what would happen if you didn't do what this person asked of you?

Identification: Sex Trafficking Specific

Has this person or someone else forced you to engage in commercial sex through online sites, escort services, or street prostitution?

Are you required to meet a certain amount of money/meet a quota from this person?

Have you ever been abused (physically, sexually, emotionally, mentally) or threatened by this person?

Have you seen anyone else abused by this person?

Has this person ever introduced you to hard drugs, prescription medications?

Do you owe a debt to this person? What would happen if you didn't pay the debt back? Where did the debt come from?

Identification: Sex Trafficking Specific

How do you get by? Who do you depend on since you've been away from home/ on the street?

How did you meet your boyfriend/girlfriend?

Has this person ever pressured you to do something you weren't comfortable doing? Pressured you to engage in sexual acts against your will?

Has this person ever taken intimate photos of you that you didn't know what they were used for? Were they sent to other people or posted online?

Have you ever exchanged sex for food, a place to stay, or other things you needed?

Barriers to Identification



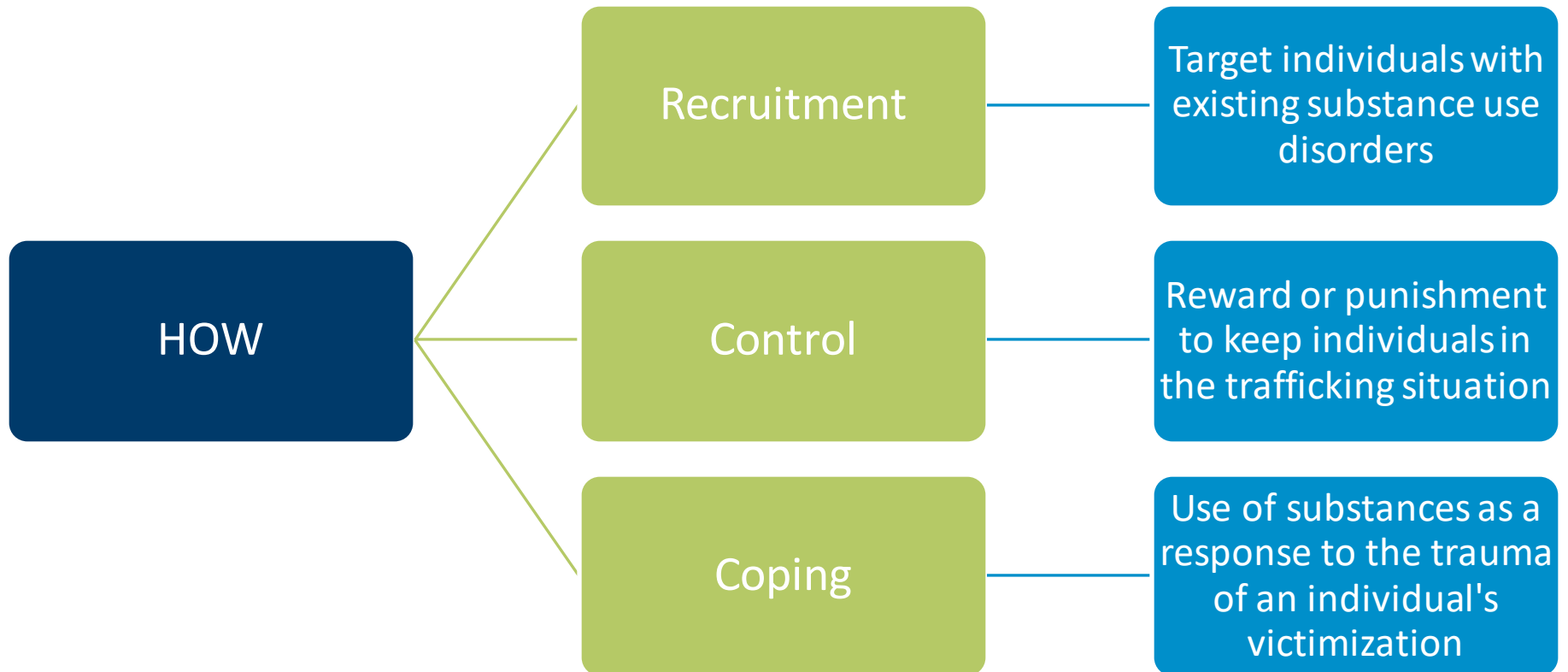
Additional Barriers

Racial Biases

Oversimplification of the realities of trafficking

- Intersections of Drug and Alcohol Abuse
- Presentation of Complex Trauma

Substance Use Disorders





Complex PTSD

Herman (1997): complex trauma generally involves some form of captivity – physical and/or emotional

Difficulties that differentiate Complex PTSD from PTSD

- Emotional Regulation
- Consciousness
- Self-Perception
- Distorted Perceptions of Perpetrator
- Relations with others
- One's System of Meanings

Co-Occurring Disorders

SUBSTANCE USE
DISORDERS

COMPLEX PTSD
(POLYVICTIMIZATION)

EATING DISORDERS

SELF HARM &
SUICIDALITY

Common Symptoms Reported by Survivors

Avoidance,
disorientation,
confusion, anxiety,
phobias & panic
attacks

Memory loss,
difficulty
concentrating

Anger,
aggression,
irritability, mood
changes

Exhaustion and
constant fatigue

Isolating Behavior

Fear of being alone,
distrust of strangers,
hallucinations or
delusions

Somatization /
psychosomatic
symptoms

Trauma bonds
and attachment

Numbness

Criminalization of Adult Survivors



Adult women who experienced trafficking have been typically trafficked first in their youth

Adult victims are more likely to be charged with related offense than offered services

Criminal records significantly reduces available resources for leaving the life

Federal Money for sex trafficking CANNOT be used to target buyers

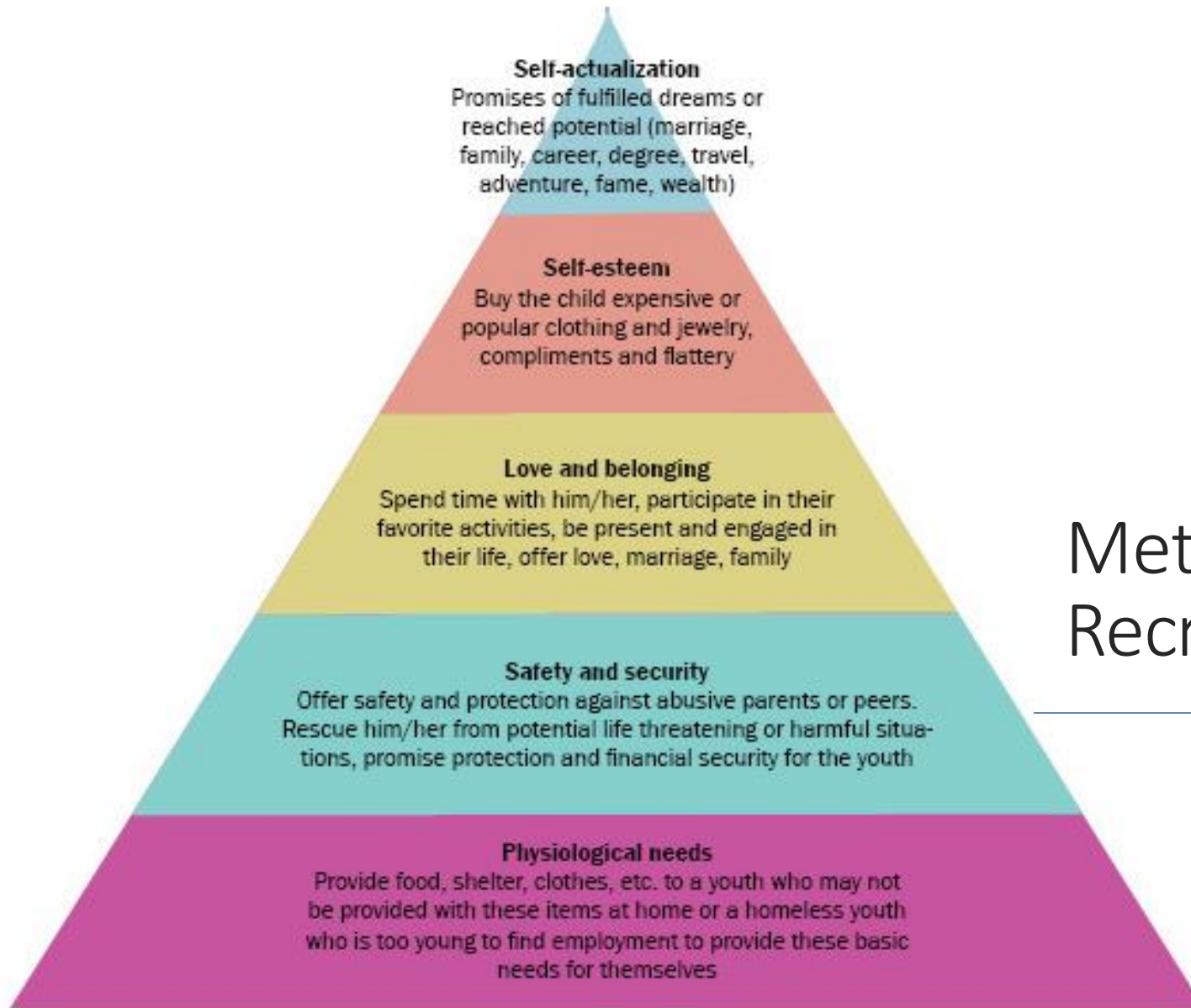
Criminalization of Adult Survivors: Recruitment

Nearly **1 in 3** pimps say they delegate management responsibilities to a bottom or the most experienced employee.

On rare occasions, bottoms are made equal partners in the business.

“You want a bottom girl...who runs everything when you’re out of town. Knows how to do everything a pimp do. Once you get a bottom girl it becomes automatic.”

“These girls, they don’t get no cut or anything, but they do get anything they want or need.” One pimp said, “The reason you don’t give them their own money, they would be like “I can just keep this.””



Methods of Recruitment

Working with Survivors: Best Practices

First Interaction with Victim

DON'T

Do not ask a victim to leave the life if you cannot help them to find them housing

Do not promise something you cannot provide

Do not say “What’s wrong” or “trust me” or “Why” questions

Do not try to convince them that they are victims

DO not ask about the trauma on the first interaction

Do not ask questions directly related to their trafficker

Do not talk negatively about their trafficker

Do not verbalize assumptions (Keep them to yourself)

Remember

You are a stranger to them. They have no reason to believe anything you say, trust you, or talk to you. Most of the time every person they've met has exploited, abused, or shunned them in some way.

First Interaction with Victim

DO

Meet basic needs BEFORE you ask them for anything

Check all your biases at the door

Do use plain language

Explain why, ask permission, and respect answer

- Recording / taking notes
- Touching in anyway

Clearly explain confidentiality

- If you must share any of the information provide by a victim to someone else, clearly explain the reasons why

Notice who is around you while you are asking questions or providing resources

- Only give resources (outreach cards, hotline numbers) to a victim directly and only when he/she is alone

Reminders!


Most victims who are pimp controlled have been trained on how to answer questions from law enforcement or social service providers

Most victims may give you small amounts of information to test you and see if they trust you

“Keep in mind that many victims do not self-identify as “human trafficking victims” due to the lack of knowledge about the crime itself and also power and control dynamics involved in trafficking situations.”

National Human Trafficking Hotline,
2018





“Establishing physical and psychological safety is a prerequisite in working with trafficking victims with trauma history”.

OVC 2018





How Might We Unintentionally Cause
Those We Serve to Relive Their Trauma?

The Importance of Relationships

What Hurts?

Interactions that are humiliating, harsh, impersonal, disrespectful, critical, demanding, judgmental

What Helps?

Interactions that express kindness, patience, reassurance, calm, acceptance, and listening

Frequent use of please and thank you

The Importance of Physical Environment

What Hurts?

Congested areas that are noisy

Poor signage that is confusing

Uncomfortable furniture

Separate bathrooms for staff and clients

Cold non-inviting colors

What Helps?

Treatment and waiting rooms are comfortable, calming, and offers privacy

Furniture is clean and comfortable

No wrong door philosophy: We are all here to help

Integrated bathrooms

Wall coverings, posters that convey a positive message

The Importance of Policies and Procedures

What Hurts?

Rules that always seem to be broken (time to take a second look at those rules)

Rules that punish symptoms of trauma

Policies and procedures that focus on organizational needs rather than client needs

Documentation with minimal involvement of clients

Many hoops to go through before needs are met

Language and cultural barriers

What Helps?

Sensible and fair rules that are clearly explained (focus on what you can do rather than what you can't do)

Transparency in documentation and service planning

Materials and communication in the person's language

Continually seeking feedback about your program

The Importance of Policies and Procedures

What Hurts?

Asking questions that convey the idea that there is something wrong with the person

Regarding a person's difficulties only as symptoms of mental health, substance use, or medical problem

What Helps?

Asking questions for the purpose of understanding what harmful events may contribute to current problems

Recognizing that symptoms may be a person's way of coping with trauma or are adaptations

REMINDERS

Focus on the person's
safety and needs

Don't second guess
decisions that the victims
made (make) while in the
life, as it directly linked to
survival and self-
preservation

Use strengths-based
language

Don't give up!

Risks of Survivor Reentry



Individuals may exit for a short period then reenter the life



Individuals are likely to return on average 7 times



Financial insecurity is main reason women return to the life



Individuals are caught between old and new patterns, ideas, people, etc.



Response

Address all of the individuals needs

“Rescuing” isn't the final step



Questions?

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