

**CCAHT**

COMMUNITY COALITION  
AGAINST HUMAN TRAFFICKING

grow  
**FREE**  
TENNESSEE

## Human Trafficking 101: Recognizing and Responding



# What we will cover

- Definition of trafficking
- Types of trafficking
- Human trafficking indicators
- Vulnerabilities that increase risk
- First steps in reporting and responding



# What is human trafficking?

Involves the use of force, fraud, or coercion to obtain some type of labor or commercial sex act.

Action – Induce, recruit, harbor, transport, provide, obtain, exchange or sell an individual

Means – Using force, fraud, coercion

Purpose – For the PROFIT or the gain of the trafficker



# Prevalence

Does this actually happen here?

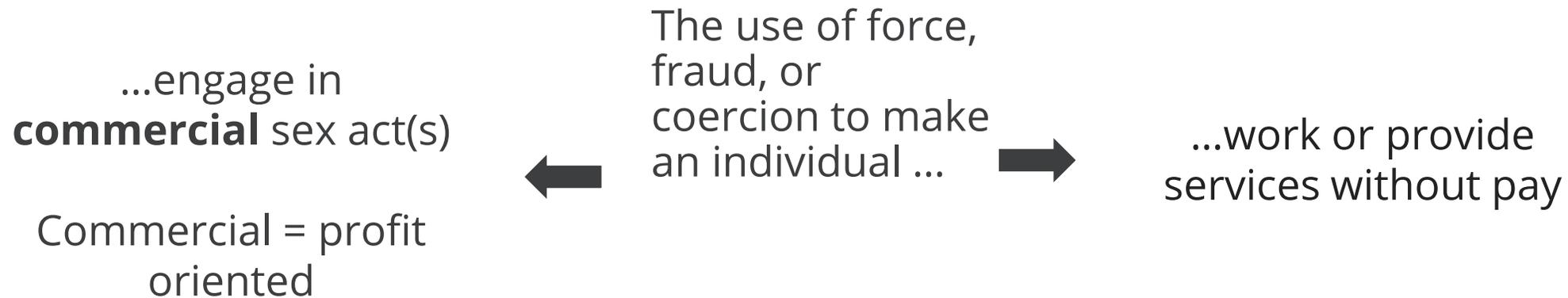
In 2022, Community Coalition Against Human Trafficking (CCAHT) powering Grow Free Tennessee (GFT) received:

407 New referrals

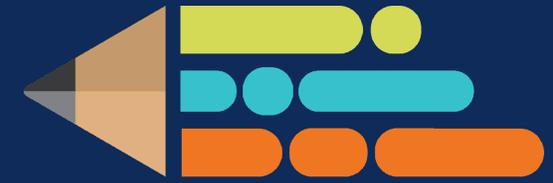
212 Youth



# Sex Trafficking Vs. Labor Trafficking



# Labor Trafficking



Occurs when force, fraud, or coercion is used to make an individual work or provide services

Often seen in:

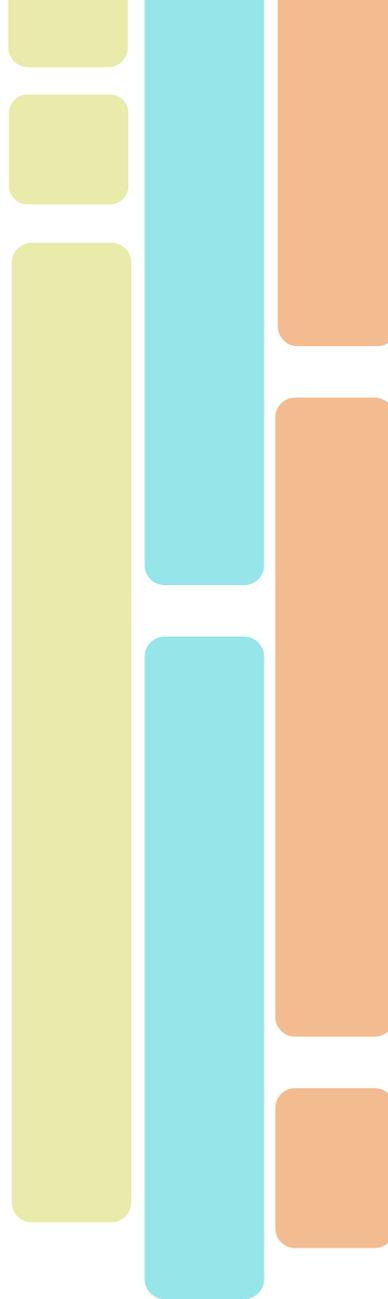
- Domestic work
- Agriculture
- Hospitality
- Drug trafficking
- Massage parlors
- Nail salons
- Restaurants
- Janitorial work
- Panhandling rings
- Door-to-door sales
- Minors: selling drugs, dancing, stripping, odd night jobs, babysitting, restaurant business.



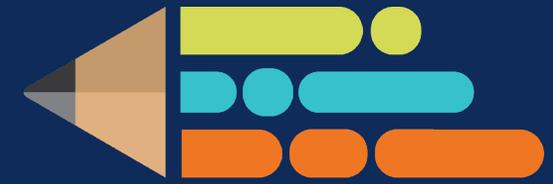
- Is unpaid, or paid very little
- Was recruited through false promises
- Is not in control of his/her own ID documents
- Owes a large debt and is unable to pay it off
- Workplace abuse and restrictions
- “Running” a business for someone in exchange for basic needs

# Victim Profile: Labor Trafficking

Liam's home life was unsafe at an early age and he stayed in foster care until he aged out. On his 18<sup>th</sup> birthday, he was asked to leave his foster home. He began frantically looking for work and found an online ad for help at a family farm. He inquired and accepted the position, as he had no job experience and no permanent address. Unfortunately, it was not all it was promised to be. He was forced to work hard manual labor all hours of the day and night, regardless of the weather conditions. He was not paid due to the “debts” owed for his room and board. Liam was not allowed to leave the farm or have contact with anyone outside of the home. He had nowhere to go even if he did want to leave.



# Sex Trafficking



Occurs when force, fraud, or coercion is used to make another engage in a commercial sex act.

- Commercialization is key
- There are two common types of trafficking in East TN:
  - Familial
  - Intimate partner



# Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Minors (CSEM)

- Crimes and activities involving the sexual abuse or exploitation of a child for the financial benefit of any person or in exchange for anything of value (including monetary and non-monetary benefits) given or received by any person.
- This term is mostly used by the Department of Children's Services (DCS) or Child Protective Services (CPS) and not a formal legal definition or statute.

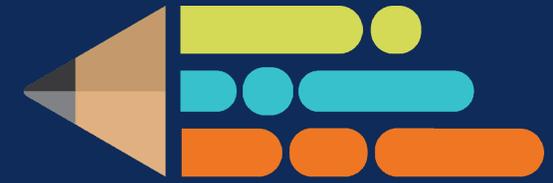


# CSEM

- child sex trafficking/the 'prostitution of children'
- child sex tourism involving commercial sexual activity  
commercial production of 'child pornography'
- online transmission of live video of a child engaged in sexual activity in exchange for anything of value
- child engaging in "survival sex"



# Sex Trafficking



## Familial Trafficking

- Most common form of sex trafficking in rural communities
- Can be multigenerational
- Biggest motivator is drugs
- Most common trafficker is mother
- Recruitment of victims is convenience-based

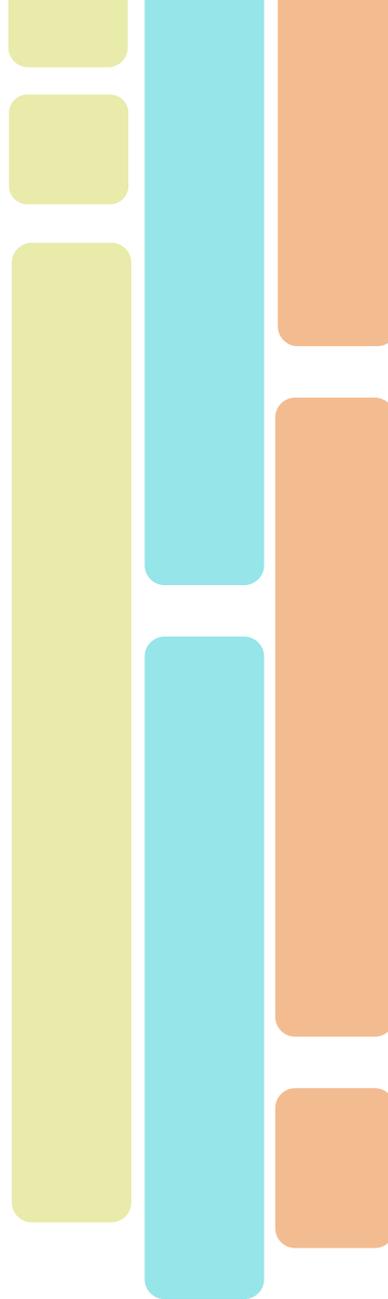
## Intimate Partner Trafficking

- Someone outside the home/family
- Someone in a “relationship” with their victim
- Involves strategic, targeted exploitation of a vulnerability(ies)



# Victim Profile: Familial Trafficking

Sam is 12 years old and lives at home with her mother Erin and 8 year old sister, Rebecca. Sam's mother suffers from an opiate misuse disorder; she is often under the influence and allows strangers to come/go from the house. Sometimes, Sam is asked to "engage in sexual activities" with some of these strangers in exchange for Erin's "medication". Sam is worried that if she doesn't do what she is asked, Rebecca will be expected to do the same. She is worried that if she tells anyone, she and Rebecca will be separated and taken away.

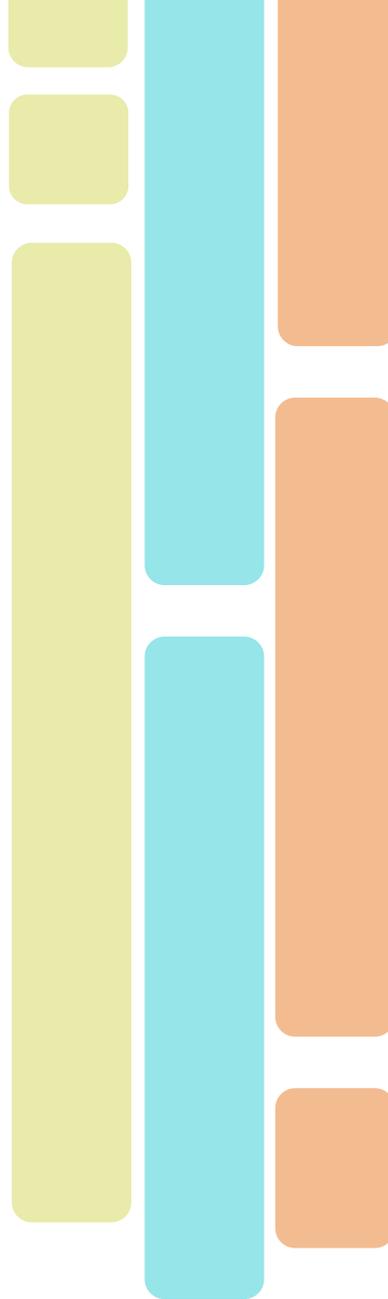


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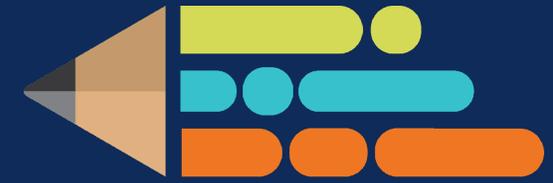
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# Victim Profile: Intimate Partner Trafficking

Julia met Scott at a party at her friend's house. He attends the local college and is able to buy beer for her and her high school friends, making her instantly popular with the “cool kids”. They quickly begin a romance and Scott buys her nice gifts and takes her on fancy dates. Julia is in love. Scott suggests they run away together, but before they can leave they need to make some quick cash to save up for an engagement ring and a place to stay.



# How does it start?



## Recruitment

- Lures of love, affection, money, safety, and family.
- Can occur in-person or online/social networking.
- Can occur directly with the abuser, handler, or other victims.

## Grooming

- Investment of time, gifts, building of trust and sense of belonging.
- Increased isolation, control, breaking down and rebuilding identity.
- Increased manipulation-testing of sexual boundaries, “loyalty”

## Turning Out

- Shifting of relationship and individual is exploited
- The initial incident of exploitation is often used as leverage



# Sex Trafficking – Rebecca Bender Story



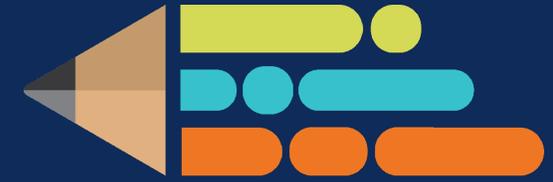
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## Sex Trafficking Indicators

- History of leaving home without permission
- “Supporting self” while on the run/selling drugs while on the run
- Tattoos associated with “living the life”
- Fearful of law enforcement and DCS
- Unable to identify number of sexual partners
- History of experienced homelessness
- No ID/false ID/lying about age
- Multiple STIs/pregnancies/abortions
- Use words associated with the industry
- History of prolonged drug use (and doesn’t have a job to support it)
- Is not enrolled in school/truant
- In a relationship with a much older individual

# Who is at risk?



Anyone with a vulnerability can be exploited.

- Human trafficking does not discriminate.
- Vulnerabilities do not make someone deserving of being trafficked.
- Many vulnerabilities are outside of one's control.



## Vulnerabilities

- History of physical or sexual abuse
- Involvement with the child-welfare or juvenile justice systems
- History of running away
- Homelessness
- Financial problems
- LGBTQ
- Self or familial substance misuse or mental health problems
- Unmet intangible needs (e.g., love, belonging, affection, protection)
- Low self esteem
- Lack of identity
- Inadequate family or other relationships/ supports

# What about the boys?

- Shame and stigma about being gay or being perceived as gay by family and community
- A lack of screening and intake by law enforcement and social services agencies rooted in the belief that boys are not victims of CSE
- Oversimplification of the reality that boys are not generally pimped hides the needs and misinforms potential services



# Boys: The Sex Trade's Unseen Victims



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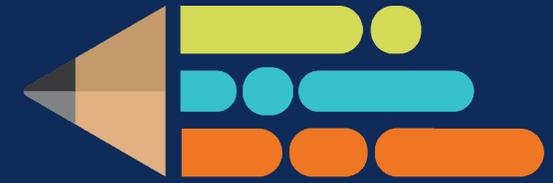
# Effects: Physical Health

- Chronic pain
- Asthma
- Dental problems
- Chronic fatigue
- Seizures, migraines, chronic headaches
- STIs
- Abortion complications, damage to sexual organs
- Substance misuse

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# Effects: Complex Trauma



## Social Impact

- Isolation
- Disconnection from community
- Homelessness
- Incarceration
- Disempowerment
- Lack of life skills
- Trust issues
- Educational Deprivation

## Emotional Impact

- Anger & rage
- Deep emotional pain or grieving
- Feelings of humiliation or shame
- Self-blame or self-loathing
- Loss of sexual desire, feelings, or response

## Psychological Impact

- Bond with perpetrators
- Sleep disturbance & nightmares
- Paranoia
- Anxiety
- Dissociative disorders
- Self-injurious and suicidal behavior
- Clinical depression

## Physical Impact

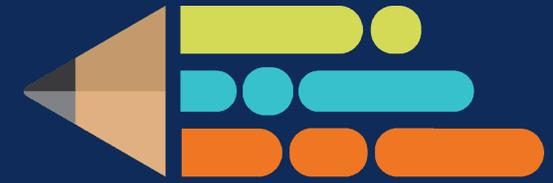
- Continuous physical abuse
- Rape & gang rape
- STD's & STI's
- HIV & AIDS
- Loss of bowel control
- Pregnancy
- Sterility
- Facial/Dental reconstruction
- Tattoo/branding
- Brain damage
- Substance abuse

## Spiritual Impact

- Despair
- Hopelessness
- Lack of belief in humanity
- Lack of faith in a spiritual power



# Grow Free TN Services



**All services adapted to fit the needs of each child and family.  
Includes In-home, community-based, one: one, and group facilitation.**

- Therapy
- Intensive care coordination
- Early intervention educational programming
- Psychoeducation
- Advocacy
- Foundations: Prevention Project



# Make a Report

## TBI Human Trafficking Hotline

- 1-855-558-6484

## National Human Trafficking Hotline

- 1-888-373-7888

## CCAHT 24/7 Hotline

- 865-292-0285

## TN Child Protective Services

- 877-237-0004





# Thank You!

## **Lisa Bolton**

Director of Youth Services  
CCAHT powering Grow Free TN  
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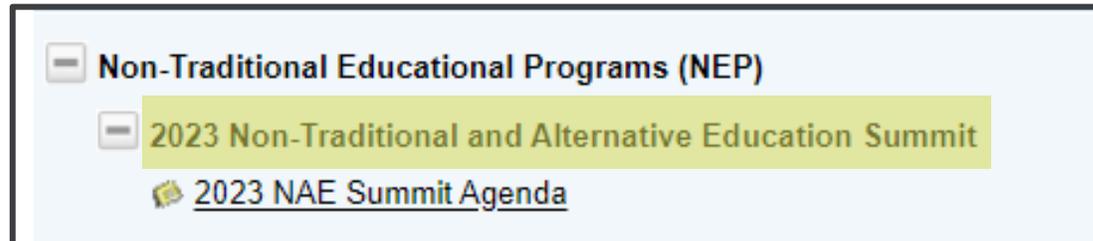
# Help us be better

[Growfreetn.org/survey](https://growfreetn.org/survey)

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- All breakout session presentations may be accessed by going to ePlan.tn.gov and clicking on “TDOE Resources” along the left menu options. On the TDOE Resources page, scroll down to Non-Traditional Educational Programs (NEP), click on the + icon, and then select 2023 Non-Traditional and Alternative Education Summit to find all presentations by session title.
- ***Note: A login is not required on ePlan to access TDOE Resources.***



# Please Share your Feedback:

<https://tinyurl.com/naesummit>

