

Identifying & Responding to Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Males

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GiantSlayer.us

**Trauma Response and the Criminal Justice System:
A Virtual Summit on Knowledge, Healing, and
Resilience 2022**



Virginia Department of Criminal Justice Services
Improving and promoting public safety in the Commonwealth



Giant Slayer Consulting

Training and technical assistance to prevent violence against boys and men

www.giantslayer.us

Training Topics

1. Snapshot of prevalence research
2. Risk and vulnerability
3. Recruitment and solicitation
4. Identification and engagement
5. Trauma-informed response

Discussion

The logo for RTI International features a stylized blue icon on the left, resembling a globe or a stylized 'R' with a white swoosh. To its right, the letters 'RTI' are written in a large, bold, blue serif font. Below this, the word 'INTERNATIONAL' is written in a smaller, blue, all-caps serif font.

RTI
INTERNATIONAL

Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Minor and Young Adult Males

spectrum: child sex trafficking, survival sex, CSEM/T, sex work

Action

Induce

Recruit

Harbor

Transport

Provision

Obtain

Patronize

Solicit

Means

Force

Fraud

Coercion

*not necessary in
situations involving
minors

Purpose

Commercial sexual
activities, including:

livestreaming

*sexual abuse imagery
and video/pornography*

erotic massage

dancing/stripping

escorting

intercourse

made to penetrate

***unwanted sexual
advance***

Have you worked with a male-survivor of sex trafficking, or CSE?

Chat box

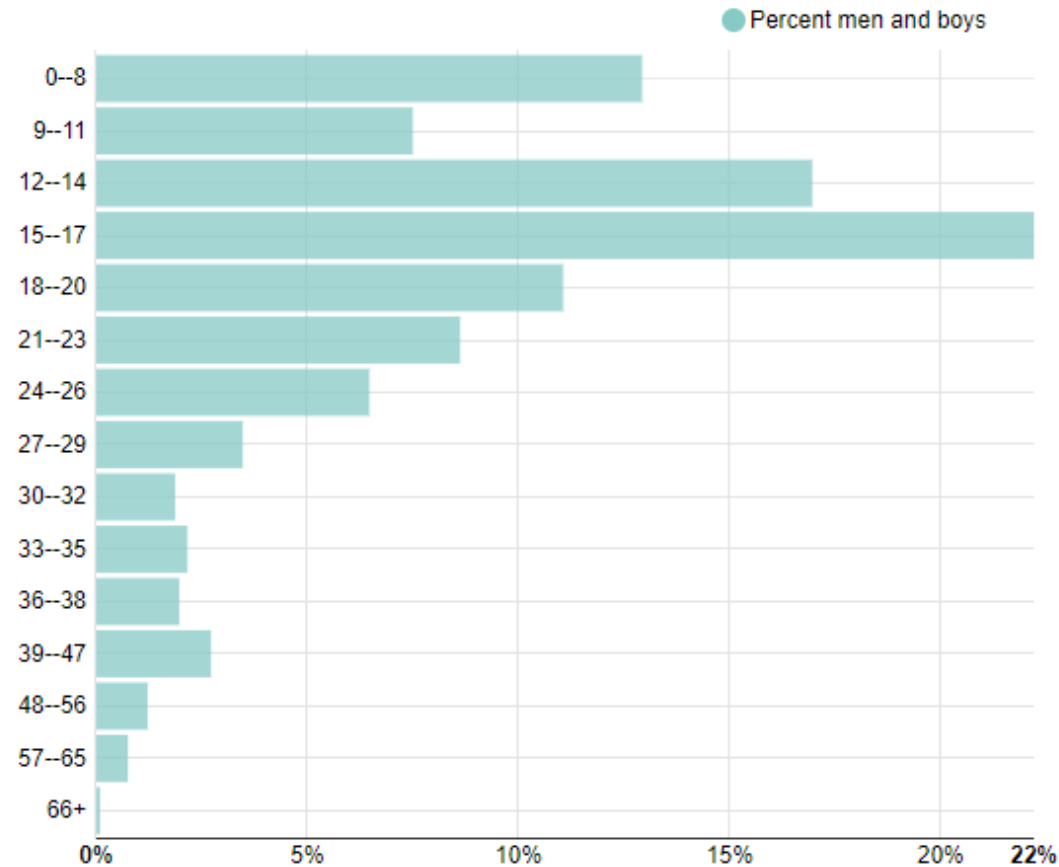
Prevalence Snapshot

Commercial Sexual Exploitation and Trafficking of Males

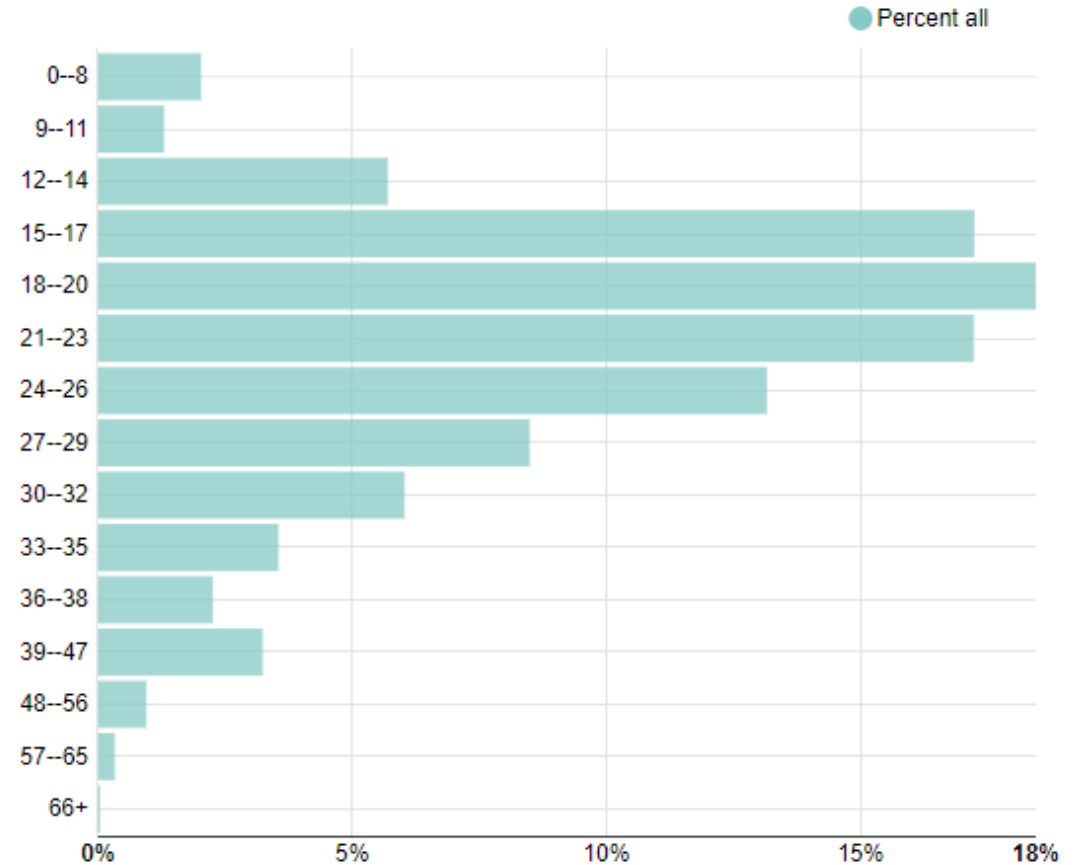
GLOBAL DATA HUB ON HUMAN TRAFFICKING

The Counter Trafficking Data Collaborative (CTDC) is the first global data hub on human trafficking, with data contributed by organizations from around the world.

AGE OF MEN AND BOYS TRAFFICKED INTO SEXUAL EXPLOITATION



AGE OF ALL VICTIMS TRAFFICKED INTO SEXUAL EXPLOITATION



As many as half of all child sex trafficking victims may identify as male.



An ECPAT-USA discussion paper about the lack of recognition of the commercial sexual exploitation of boys in the United States

LOVE 146
END CHILD TRAFFICKING AND EXPLOITATION

Criminal Justice



An Analysis of Missing Male Victims of
Child Sex Trafficking (CST)

[565 minor males were likely trafficked for sex while missing \(2014-2017\).](#) (2018)

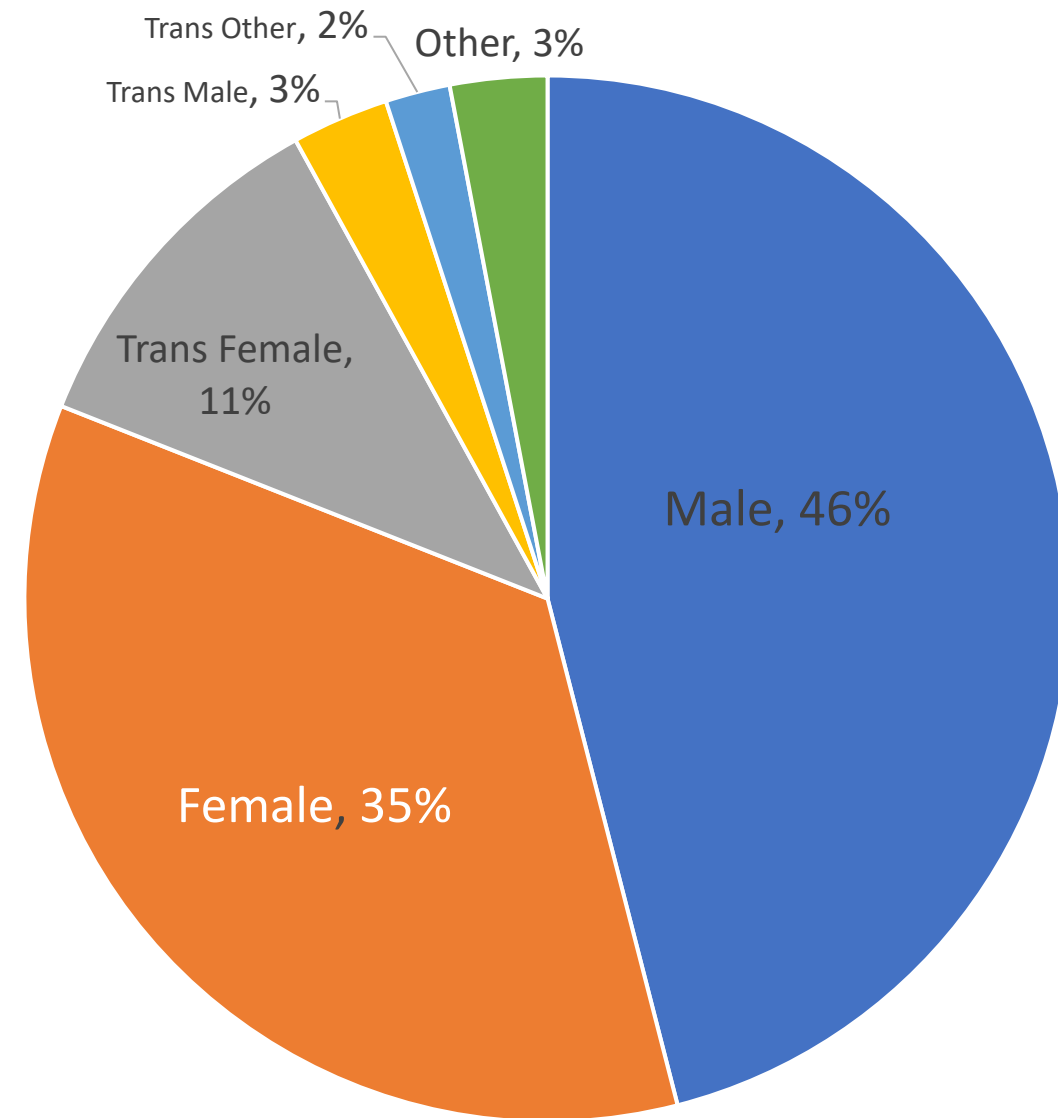


INTERPOL

[Study finds boys and very young children at greater risk of severe online sexual abuse \(interpol.int\)](#) (2018)

Surviving the Streets of New York: Experiences of YMSM, YWSW and LGBTQ Youth Engaged in Survival Sex (Dank, 2015)

- 283 youth survey
- Respondent-driven sampling
- Interviewed 13-21yo, self-identified as LGBTQ, YMSM, or YWSW who engaged in "survival sex" in NYC
- Majority were people of color
 - 39% black, 17% Latino, 33% multi-racial
- 38% identified as gay or lesbian
- 13% identified as straight
- 37% identified as bisexual



> [J Community Health](#). 2017 Feb;42(1):90-100. doi: 10.1007/s10900-016-0234-2.

Exchange of Sex for Drugs or Money in Adolescents and Young Adults: An Examination of Sociodemographic Factors, HIV-Related Risk, and Community Context

Cherrie B Boyer¹, Lauren Greenberg², Kate Chutuape³, Bendu Walker³, Dina Monte², Jennifer Kirk², Jonathan M Ellen⁴, Adolescent Medicine Trials Network

Collaborators, Affiliations + expand

PMID: 27498094 PMCID: PMC5253104 DOI: 10.1007/s10900-016-0234-2

- 1818 youth surveyed – (13-24 years old)
- Community venues where adolescents and young adults congregate in **resource-challenged, STI prevalent, urban, US neighborhoods**. (Miami, Tampa)
- **16.3%** reported exchanging sex: **42.2 % were males, and 4.6 % were transgender**
- 32.1 % identified as gay or lesbian, 18.1 % identified as bisexual; 48.8% heterosexual
- 66.2 % were Black and 21.0 % were Hispanic
- Variables that were significantly associated with exchange of sex: **being male or transgender**, homelessness, sex with a partner who has HIV, STI history, unemployment, job training access, housing instability, crime victimization, perceived community norms

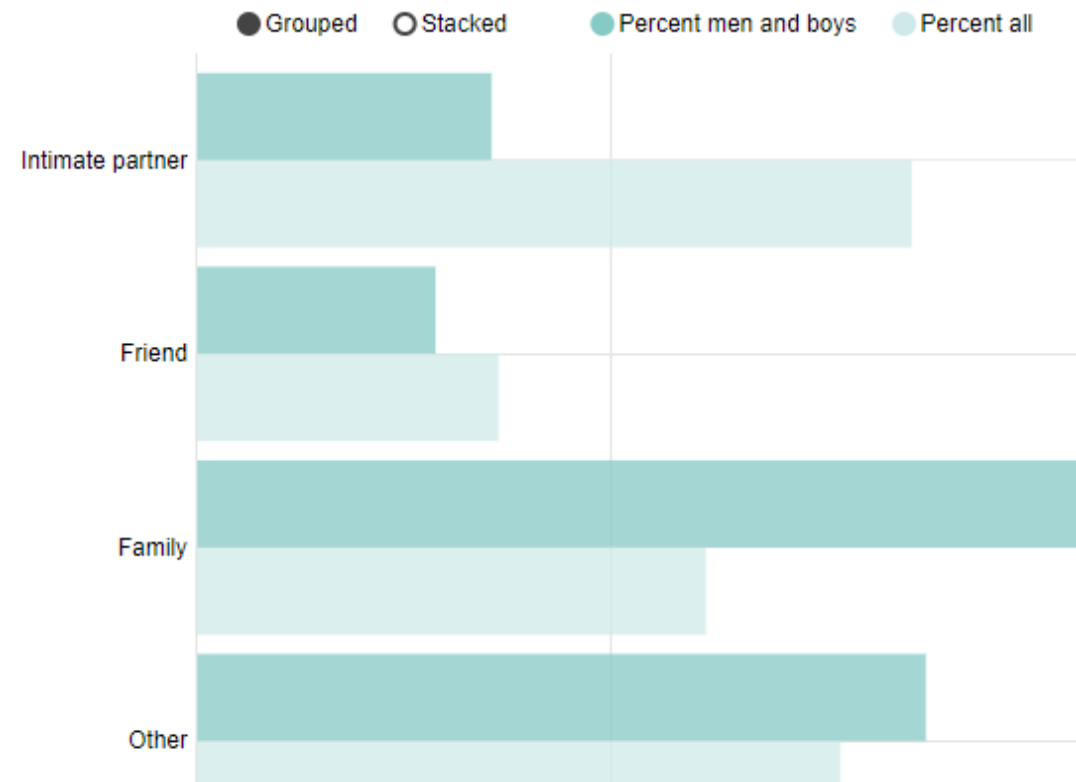
Models, Dynamics & Pathways

Commercial Sexual Exploitation & Trafficking of Males

Family

- Coerced/forced into commercial sex by family members to support the family (poverty) and/or to fund the family member's substance use problem; sex addiction
- Prostitution, sex work, sex trafficking
- Child sexual abuse material, CSAM (video, image); pornography
- Livestreaming

RECRUITER RELATIONSHIP



Street Family (Fictive Kinship)

- Unhoused
- Group home
- Runaway, asked or forced to leave
- LGBTQIA2S+
- Peer facilitated
- Self-directed
- Gangs
- Unaccompanied male minors

CSE, Survival (18+)

- Self-directed commercial sex / sex work to support themselves
 - Money
 - Shelter
 - Food
 - Substance use/abuse
 - Hormones
 - Safety
 - Other needs and wants

Online Grooming/Sextortion

- Social media; online dating sites, apps; gaming systems
 - Seeking validation, affection
 - LGBTQIA2S+
 - Lack of positive male role model
 - Peer acceptance
 - Sexual exploration



BISEXUAL

**Underage Gay And Bi Teens Use Grindr
For More Than Just Hookups, Study
Finds**

Female-Identifying Traffickers and Buyers

NCJTC National Criminal Justice Training Center of Fox Valley Technical College

Differences

Boys are more likely to be trafficked by females
OR
buyers/traders

Photo by Papaioannou Kostas on Unsplash

NCJTC National Criminal Justice Training Center of Fox Valley Technical College

how do you know who to ask. Do you start chatting first, or is there a way that automatically knew they were looking for it? Was it more men or women, or both equal

I'd definitely say at a homeless shelter for sex and money

how do you find clients on meetme and pof? do you just find a man or woman and ask them if they want it?

More woman than men but I would just ask them for money and they would say what do I get in return

Me personally I would advertise myself on there

type a message...

International Journal of
*Environmental Research
and Public Health*



Article

Challenging the Stereotypes: Unexpected Features of Sexual Exploitation among Homeless and Street-Involved Boys in Western Canada

Elizabeth M. Saewyc^{1,2,*}, Sneha Shankar¹, Lindsay A. Pearce¹ and Annie Smith²

1 in 4 boys (n=132)

Median age 14-15

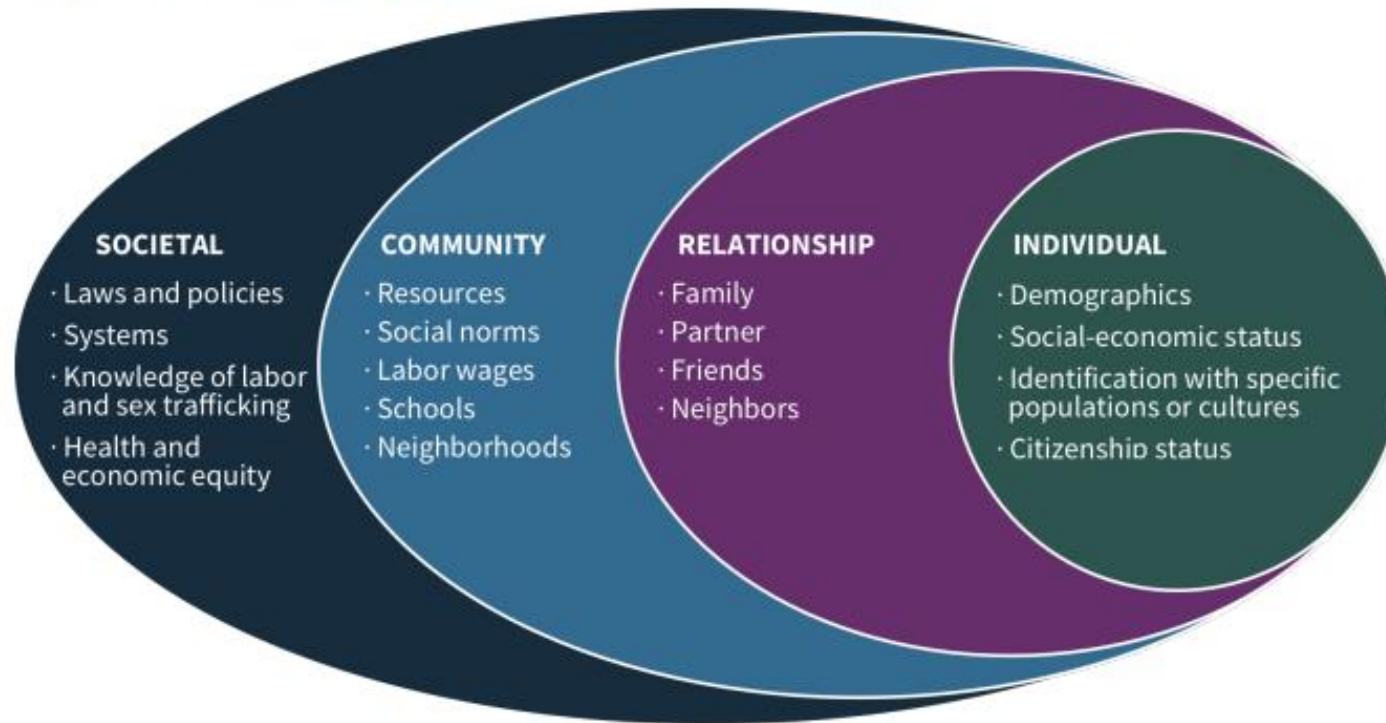
78% - 85% exploited by women

62% - 65% exclusively by women

Risk and Vulnerability

Associated Risk Factors

Figure 2: The Social-Ecological Model: A Framework for Prevention



Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. (2020). *The social-ecological model: A framework for prevention*. <https://www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention/publichealthissue/social-ecologicalmodel.html>

Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs)

Results of the ACEs study explicate that experiencing four or more categories of ACEs predict higher rates of chronic diseases compared to those who have not experienced ACEs. Similar findings are reported between ACEs and sexual risk behaviors, drug abuse, and depression ([Hicks et al, 2020](#)).

Sexual abuse was the strongest predictor of human trafficking: the odds of human trafficking was 2.52 times greater for girls who experienced sexual abuse, and there was an **8.21 times greater risk for boys who had histories of sexual abuse** (Reid et al, 2017).

ACEs of
LGBTQ Young
Adults
Experiencing
Homelessness

Table 8
2019 YES Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs)

Variable	LGBTQ+ Sex Trafficked Group (n = 40) n (%)	Cisgender Heterosexual Sex Trafficked Group (n = 21) n (%)
Abuse		
Emotional	28 (70)	15 (71)
Physical	15 (37.5)	6 (28.6)
Sexual	24 (60)	9 (42.9)
Neglect		
Emotional	31 (77.5)	15 (71.4)
Physical	20 (50)	8 (38.1)
Household Dysfunction		
Divorce	27 (67.5)	16 (76.2)
Mother Treated Violently	20 (50)	10 (47.6)
Substance Use	27 (67.5)	14 (66.7)
Mental Illness	26 (65)	10 (47.6)
Incarcerated Relative	24 (60)	9 (42.9)
ACEs score four or higher	30 (63.8)	17 (36.2)



Unique Risk and Vulnerability

Lack of present male role model	Lack of male/LGBTQ-inclusive prevention education
Fear of diminishing manhood / perception of weakness	Lack of attention on and impunity of female buyers/traffickers
Feeling of invincibility	Gender bias, sexism
Need to serve as the 'man' of the house	Racism, xenophobia (intergenerational)
Fear of being 'outed' or thought of as gay	Transphobia, Biphobia and Homophobia
Higher rates of substance dependency	Toxic norms around masculinity
Unaddressed mental health	Misandry
Higher rates of incarceration; exposure to other violence	Female-centric narrative/lack of inclusion

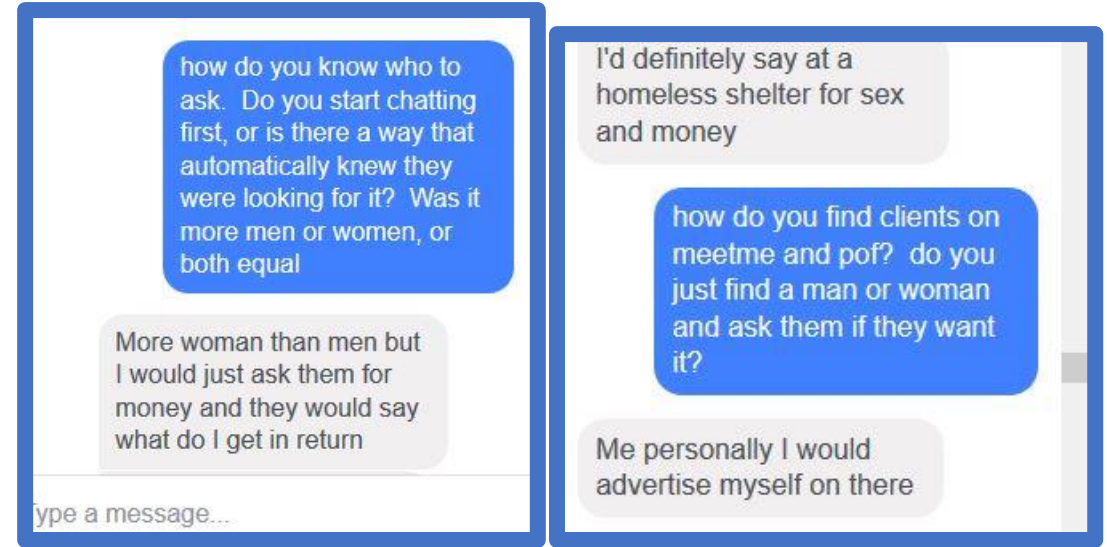
A blue ribbon graphic with a 3D effect, featuring a darker blue shadow on the left side. The ribbon is horizontal and contains the text "Recruitment and Solicitation" in white.

Recruitment and Solicitation

Abusers & Exploiters

Women, men, non-binary and Transgender individuals

Demand based on gender expression, race, sexual orientation, physical features, ethnicity, religion, citizenship status, other vulnerabilities



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1 in 4 boys (n=132)

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AEQUITAS

Coercion: Power & Control

- Coercion and threats
 - Threat of arrest or violation of probation
 - Threat to return to jail
 - Threats to expose drug use
 - Threats to 'out' in jail or on the streets
- Intimidation
 - Drug debts
 - Involvement of DCF
 - Calls probation officer or bondsman
- Isolation
 - Addiction as isolation
 - "The life"
- Denying, blaming, minimizing
 - Blames victim's drug addiction
 - Sells it as a short-term solution to a problem
- Physical Abuse
 - Withholding of drugs
 - Incarceration
- Using privilege
 - Drug dealer
 - Connections to criminal justice system
- Financial Abuse
 - Indebtedness for drugs, bond, attorney's fees, court fines
 - Holds money

Identification and Engagement

TOOLBOX

Individual Indicators of Male Trafficking

Signs of sexual or physical abuse - Anal, testicular trauma	Malnourishment
Frequent testing or treatment for STIs	In possession of, has prescription for, PrEP (pre-exposure prophylaxis)
Possession of large amounts of condoms, lubricant and/or sex paraphernalia	High number of sex partners
Possession of brass knuckles, knife or another weapon	Frequent ER visits from violence – broken jaw, knuckles, lacerations, lower back pain, respiratory issues, stab wounds (sex/labor)
Previous or frequently occurring overdoses or visits to ER for overdose	Close association with controlling adult or intimate partner
Unexplained access to hormone treatment or implants	Multiple handles/profiles on dating sites, social media
Mentions ‘working’ with ‘clients’ or ‘escorts’ (sex work)	Always carrying overnight bag/backpack
**Possession of material things inconsistent with access to money or status – cash, drugs, gaming system, technology, shoes, belt, jewelry, cologne, motel keys/cards	Living out of motel, bathhouse, car or couch surfing
Has secret cell phone or guarded about its use	Extreme constant anger
Obsesses about being accessible by phone – internet; earbuds	

Barriers to Disclosure

How can you address or mitigate these barriers prior to engagement?

- Punitive, victim-blaming addiction treatment and detox or diversion programs
- Previous victimization in correctional facilities
- Negative, harmful previous attempts to cooperate with law enforcement or prosecutors
- Language access
- Losing livelihood
- Do not see themselves as having been victimized
- Trauma bonds
- Mistrust in providers or law enforcement from previous discrimination – racial, gender, substance dependence, mental health, sex work, criminal justice involvement, religious
 - “Microaggressions and previous discrimination reinforce the need to express masculinity and reinforce barriers to disclosure.”

Quick Youth Indicator Tool, QYIT

Validated pre-screening tool for identification of labor and/or sex trafficking among homeless young adults, 18 – 22, in service provision settings

Designed for non-clinicians



**Covenant
House**
New Jersey

1. It is not uncommon for young people to stay in work situations that are risky or even dangerous, simply because they have no other options. Have you ever worked, or done other things, in a place that made you feel scared or unsafe?

Yes No Refuse to Answer Don't Know

2. Sometimes people are prevented from leaving an unfair or unsafe work situation by their employers. Have you ever been afraid to leave or quit a work situation due to fears of violence or threats of harm to yourself or your family?

Yes No Refuse to Answer Don't Know

3. Sometimes young people who are homeless or who are having difficulties with their families have very few options to survive or fulfill their basic needs, such as food and shelter. Have you ever received anything in exchange for sex (e.g.: a place to stay, gifts, or food)?

Yes No Refuse to Answer Don't Know

4. Sometimes employers don't want people to know about the kind of work they have young employees doing. To protect themselves, they ask their employees to lie about the kind of work they are involved in. Have you ever worked for someone who asked you to lie while speaking to others about the work you do?*

Yes No Refuse to Answer Don't Know

Starting the Conversation

- Identify confidential space for interviewing (male-only hours, days and location)
- Confirm anonymity at every touchpoint
- Affirm resiliency and/or masculinity
- Emphasize that its up to the client whether they want to talk and share or just listen
- Acknowledge a broken or unfair system
- Provide culturally relevant resources
- Be prepared to support sexuality and/or gender expression
- Monitor your own reactions
- **Acknowledge the need to survive when risk is present**

“You told me you have been staying with friends over the past few months. I see you trying to survive and wonder if you’ve ever had to do something sexual in exchange for something to eat, a place to live, drugs, hormones, a Lyft or Uber or anything else.”

Practice / be prepared to respond to a variety of responses (linkages in place).

“I ain’t gay”

“No, but I gotta friend who does that.”

“Ya, all the time, but it’s no big deal”

“Ya, when I’m jonesin’ bad

“Ya, I get ladies on POF. They willin’ to pay me, so...”

Universal Education

- Disclosure is not the goal
- Empowerment-based approach that provides clients with information about exploitation to normalize support-seeking and allows clients to consider whether it applies to their situation (Procopio, 2021)
- Provide 'safety cards' while **meeting priority needs**
 - “I’m giving all of my clients two of these cards. They talk about relationships and how they affect our health and safety. Take a look. I’ve also included one for your friend. On the back of the cards, there are numbers you can call or text for more information. And you can always talk to me about any situations where you are being taken advantage of or hurt”

Trauma-Informed Response

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RTI
INTERNATIONAL

Service Needs

Peer or survivor-mentor

Housing

Mental health

Substance dependence

Economic empowerment
(comparable intangible and tangible value)

Compassionate healthcare

Safety and confidentiality



Creating Male-Friendly Services and Programs

National Mentoring Alliance

- Male mentors can speak to the message of false masculinity and other gender stereotypes; sensitive to the shame and guilt
- Male mentors (LE, advocates) of color can lessen the negative effects of previous racial discrimination
- Group mentoring approaches support the social-emotional development of boys and young men of color (unity, brotherhood, trust)
- Respect the privacy of LGBTQ+ youth – never assume or share sexual orientation or gender identity
- Refer LGBTQ+ youth to a healthcare provider who can address their particular health needs and risk
- Acknowledge previous harassment, abuse, rejection and discrimination
- Ensure LGBTQ+ survivors understand they are supported and that their harassment will not be tolerated



Creating Male-Friendly Services and Programs

Australian Men's Health Forum

Promotion

- Target males directly
 - Create male-targeted marketing collateral
 - Promote your services where males congregate
- Meet them where they are
 - Take your services into community spaces where males are
 - Create special hours / venues just for males
- Use male-inclusive or –centric language
 - Consider changing or giving your organization a male-friendly name
 - Try using metaphors that resonate with males



Creating Male-Friendly Services and Programs

Australian Men's Health Forum

Cultural

- Don't view males as the problem
 - Help males understand the benefits of healthier, less risky behavior
 - Support staff to reflect on their own negative thoughts / bias towards males
- Combine giving help with getting help
 - Build rapport by asking males to help with surveys and outreach
 - Frame the action you want males to take as being helpful to other guys
- Build social connection between men
 - Hold information events just for males
 - Run short male-only groups



Creating Male-Friendly Services and Programs

Australian Men's Health Forum

Structural

- Help males help themselves
 - Provide male-friendly information and guidance and targeted at males
 - Use technology to provide opportunities for males to engage online
- Support approaches “For males by males”
 - Employ male staff and volunteers
 - Male peer support / survivor-mentorship
- Use male-friendly activities
 - Link to male-friendly activities – sports, BBQ, motors, work, fathering
 - Use venues that signal, “this is for males”
- Work with males’ strengths
 - Consider males’ interests and identities (psychological strengths)
 - Think about males’ preferences and practices (behavioral strengths)
 - Work with males’ values and virtues (cultural strengths)
 - Be aware of men’s roles and responsibilities (social strengths)

Moving Forward – Build Capacity (AEquitas)

- Partner with multi-cultural males with lived experience*
- Audit current response protocols and training curricula (gender-inclusive?)
- Identify services: LGBTQ+ and Non-LGBTQ+; multicultural
- Develop policies: input from survivors and providers
 - Cross-train law enforcement with, healthcare professionals and social service providers with experience serving male groups
- Establish trust
- Build a community of practice

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www.giantslayer.us

DISCUSSION

A blue ribbon graphic with a 3D effect, featuring a darker blue shadow on the left side. The word "Resources" is written in white text on the ribbon.

Resources

EMMAUS

FIGHTING TO END EXPLOITATION FOR **ALL MANKIND.**

Founded in 1990, Emmaus is working to prevent exploitation and empower male-identifying survivors to rebuild their lives.

Prevention

Emmaus' Prevention Education offers individually tailored human trafficking content designed to educate and engage community members and professionals in the counter-trafficking movement.

Outreach

Emmaus utilizes outreach teams and cutting-edge web scraping technology to reach exploited men and boys on the streets and online – all to build a relationship of trust while affirming worth, rejecting stigma, and offering hope.

Drop-in

Our trauma-informed Survivor Support Center is a platform to build healthy relationships, receive spiritual support and get assistance in accessing resources, including housing, employment, education, transportation, and health care.

Reinvestment

We invite male survivors, whose lived experience and credibility are unparalleled, to lead with us to support and empower those still exploited in the sex trade.

Serving all male-identifying Survivors

Contact

Phone
773.334.6063

Website
www.Streets.org

Email
Sheri@streets.org



Bob's House of Hope

The FIRST safe house in the country for young men, 18 and up, who have been victims of sex trafficking.

- ▶ Survivors need a safe, long-term, and therapeutic environment in which to heal
- ▶ Bob's House of Hope provides:
 - ▶ Free, secure housing for up to three years
 - ▶ Total wrap around care including:
 - ▶ Medical, dental, psychiatric evaluation and medication, and proper nutrition
 - ▶ Trauma-informed therapies, such as Ranch Hands Rescue's flagship modality Equine & Animal Assisted Counseling
 - ▶ Legal services and community advocacy
 - ▶ Educational and vocational opportunities
 - ▶ Mentorship that includes life skills training, exercise routines, healthy community engagement, & more
 - ▶ Structured, yet relaxed, ranch environment
 - ▶ 24/7 staff who are cross trained in a variety of therapeutic interventions
 - ▶ And most of all, HOPE



Bob Williams, CEO and Founder, can be reached at bob@ranchhandrescue.org or by dialing our main line, 940-240-0500 ext. 3

Landon Dickeson, Director of Clinical Services, can be reached at landon@ranchhandrescue.org or by dialing our main line, 940-240-0500 ext. 1.2



Resources

- [Giant Slayer Consulting](#)
- [Emmaus](#)
- [Bob's House of Hope](#)
- [The BUDDY House](#)
- [BOYS documentary](#)
- [National Human Trafficking Resource Center](#)
- [MaleSurvivor.org](#)
- [Men Healing](#)
- [Love 146 \(prevention education\)](#)
- [National Center for Missing and Exploited Children](#)
- [GLBT National Youth Talk Line](#)
- [Forge \(Transgender\)](#)

Resources

- [Healing of Boys and Men of Color Training Curricula - Center for Reaching Victims](#)
- [Working with Male Survivors of Sexual Violence | National Sexual Violence Resource Center \(NSVRC\)](#)
- [Unseen: The Boy Victims of the Sex Trade Pt. 1 \(wgbh.org\)](#)
- [Unseen, part 5: 'An easy target': Sex traffickers prey on drug-addicted young men \(wgbh.org\)](#)
- [Online Enticement Pre-Travel - DocumentCloud](#)
- [How to Improve Services for Males Experiencing Trafficking \(hhs.gov\)](#)
- [Assessing Our Capacity for Serving Male Survivors of Sexual Violence \(nsvrc.org\)](#)
- [Boys: The Forgotten Sex Trafficking Victims | Virtual | Jul 16, 2019 \(fvtc.edu\)](#)
- [How Toxic Masculinity Hurts Male Survivors—and What Can Help | BARCC](#)

Resources

- [Lessons on Serving Male Survivors Through Sexual Assault Services Program \(nsvrc.org\)](https://www.nsvrc.org/)
- [How We Talk About Working with Male Survivors of Sexual Assault, Harassment, and Abuse \(nsvrc.org\)](https://www.nsvrc.org/)
- [Different Approaches to the Conversation | NATIONAL HUMAN TRAFFICKING TRAINING AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE CENTER \(hhs.gov\)](https://www.hhs.gov/trafficking/technical-assistance-center/)
- [Collaboration for Awareness to Support Latin@ Male Survivors - The Good Men Project](https://www.thegoodmenproject.org/)
- [Vulnerable and Underserved: Victim Advocacy for Incarcerated Survivors of Sexual Abuse Perpetrated by Women – Just Detention International](https://www.justdetentioninternational.org/)
- [Gay Latino Sexual Assault Survivors : Best Practices To Supporting Nuestros Hermanos Part II - YouTube](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=...)
- [The Good Men Project - The Conversation No One Else Is Having](https://www.thegoodmenproject.org/)
- [Resources for LGBTQIA+ children, adolescents and young adults living in non-affirming environments \(apadivisions.org\)](https://www.apadivisions.org/)

Resources

- [Boys & CSEC | Youth Collaboratory](#)
- [Mentoring Boys and Young Men of Color. A Guide | Mentor](#)
- [LGBTQ Supplement to the Elements of Effective Practice for Mentoring™ - MENTOR](#)
- [Working with Male Survivors: How Sexual Assault Impacts Transgender Men – Part 1 | National Sexual Violence Resource Center \(NSVRC\)](#)
- [Working with Male Survivors: How Sexual Assault Impacts Transgender Men – Part 2 | National Sexual Violence Resource Center \(NSVRC\)](#)
- [Home - FORGE \(forge-forward.org\)](#)
- [Improving LGBTQ/Law Enforcement Relationships: A Webinar for Community Advocates - FORGE \(forge-forward.org\)](#)
- [Webinars - FORGE \(forge-forward.org\)](#)

Resources

- [APA LGBT Resources and Publications](#)
- <http://www.ecpatusa.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/02/and-boys-to-report.pdf>
- [How We Talk About Working with Male Survivors of Sexual Assault, Harassment, and Abuse \(nsvrc.org\)](#)
- [Sexual Assault Services that Support Healing for Male Survivors | National Sexual Violence Resource Center \(NSVRC\)](#)
- [Creating Partnerships in Your Local Communities to Support Male Survivors | National Sexual Violence Resource Center \(NSVRC\)](#)
- [Reaching and Engaging Male Survivors of Sexual Violence | National Sexual Violence Resource Center \(NSVRC\)](#)
- [Understanding Male Socialization, Stigma, and Reactions to Sexual Violence | National Sexual Violence Resource Center \(NSVRC\)](#)

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National Human Trafficking Hotline

1-888-373-7888

Text 233733

humantraffickinghotline.org

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- [National Runaway Safeline](#)
- [MaleSurvivor.org](#)
- [Men Healing](#)
- [Suicide Prevention Lifeline](#)
- [HEAL Trafficking \(healthcare response\)](#)
- [National Human Trafficking Training and Technical Assistance Center, NHTTAC](#)
- [Core Competencies for Human Trafficking Response in Healthcare and Behavioral Health](#)
- [Office for Victims of Crime, Training and Technical Assistance Center](#)
- [Love 146 \(prevention education\)](#)
- [National Center for Missing and Exploited Children](#)
- [GLBT National Youth Talk Line](#)
- [Forge \(Transgender\)](#)