



Who is trafficked?

Positioned to care:
Improving identification of victims of labor
and sex trafficking in Colorado

Module 2

First some myths about trafficking...

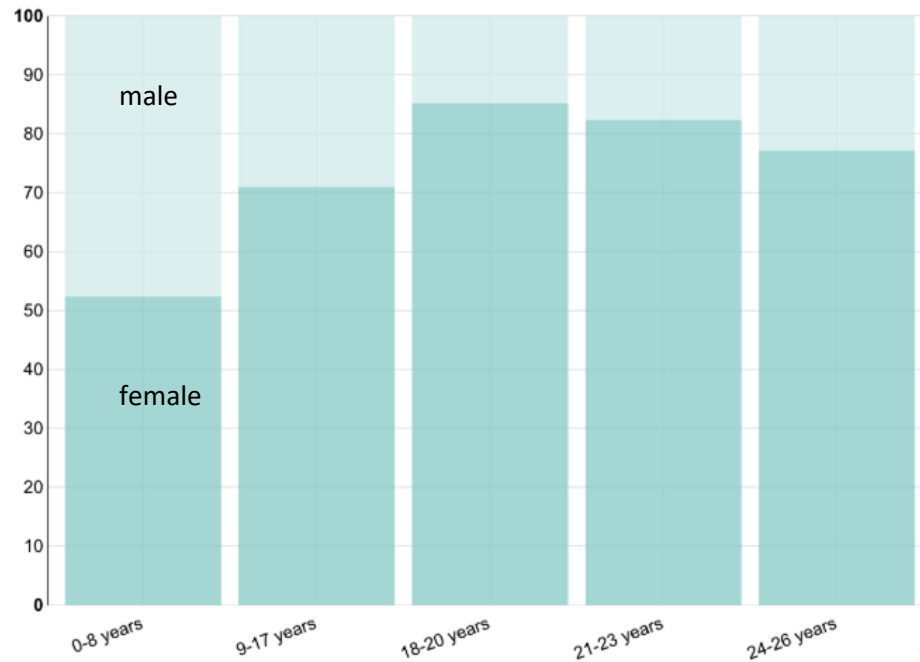
- Trafficking only happens to people from somewhere else – **FALSE**
 - Trafficking happens to people in their own neighborhood
 - Crossing state lines isn't required to prosecute trafficking
- Trafficking only happens to poor people or immigrants – **FALSE**
 - Although poverty and immigration can increase vulnerability to trafficking, people of all walks of life can be and are trafficked
 - Both immigrants and US citizens are at risk for trafficking

More myths about trafficking...

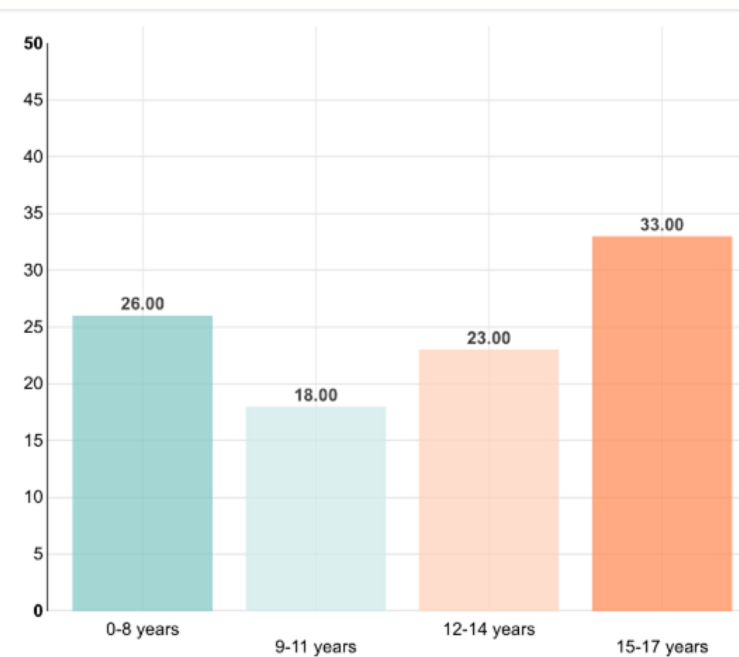
- Sex trafficking only happens to women or girls – **FALSE**
 - Gender isn't protective.
 - Boys and men are also trafficked for sex but may report less often
 - Non-binary folks are also at risk
- Trafficking isn't a problem until kids are much older. – **FALSE**
 - Kids as young as 8 have been recovered from trafficking situations in the US
 - Average age of entry for a teen into commercial sexual exploitation (child abuse and assault for money) is between 12-14 years old

Boys and even young children can be trafficked.....

GENDER BREAKDOWN BY AGE GROUP



CHILDREN'S AGE AT ENTRY INTO TRAFFICKING



Counter-Trafficking Data Collaborative (CTDC), [February, 2020].

Some children are easier targets for trafficking....

- Lack of community support or isolation
- Chaotic family situations (some families even do the trafficking)
- Foster care placement
- Homelessness
- Being a survivor of prior or ongoing abuse (physical and/or sexual)
- Immigration status – even legal immigrants may be very vulnerable to coercion based on threats of deportation or legal action
- Substance abuse
- Runaways (kids may be running from something...)
- LGBTQ+ - puts kids at higher risk of the above

At Risk Populations



Refugees and
Asylees



Juvenile Justice,
Foster Care Children



Physical and
Cognitive disabilities



Survivors of
other crimes



LGBTQ+



Immigrant and
Migrant Individuals

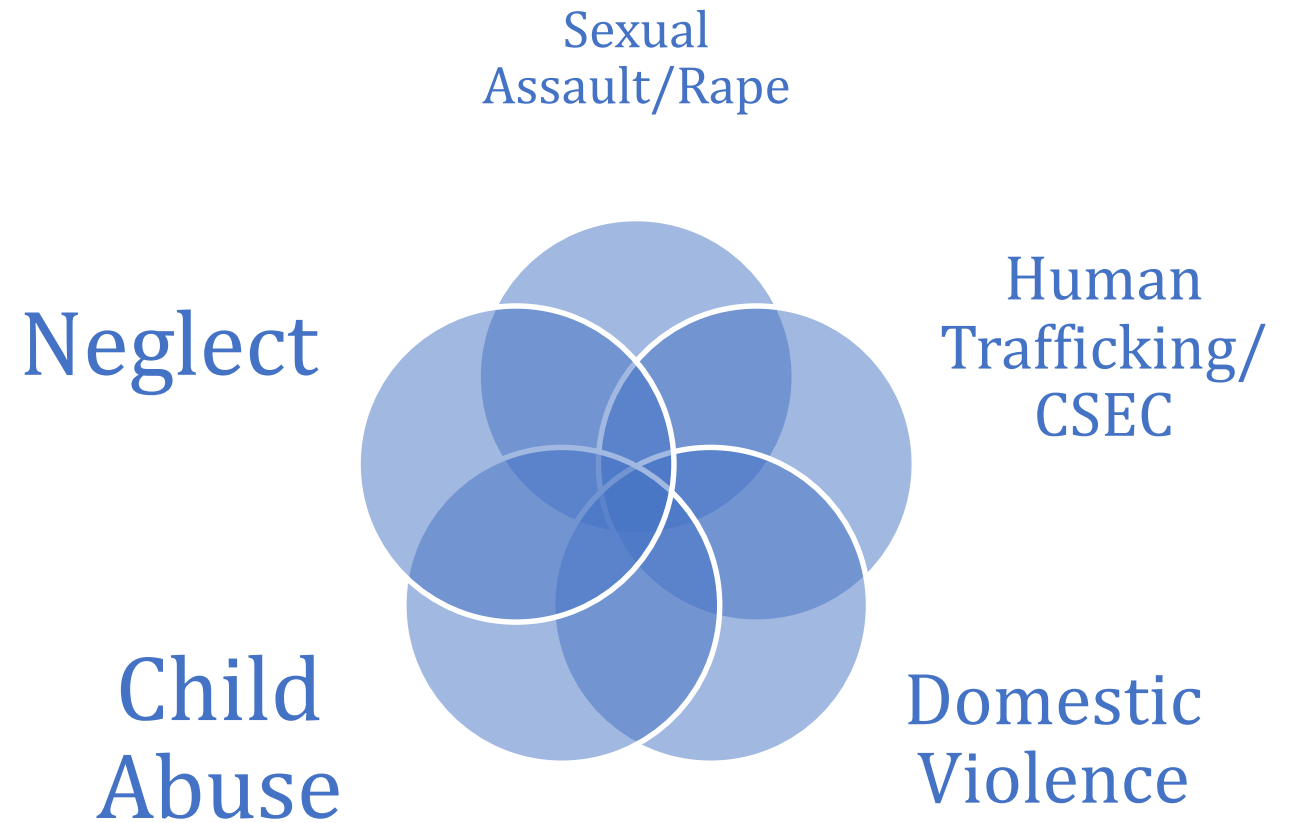


Runaway/Throwaways
and Homeless Youth



Survivors of Physical
and Sexual Abuse

Child maltreatment:



Where Can Victims be Found?

- Medical facilities (ER, STI Clinics, Abortion Clinics, pregnancy centers)
- Mental Health Facilities
- Juvenile Detention
- Schools
- In State Care (foster care, group homes)
- Drug/Alcohol Treatment
- Home
- Gang Based
- Hotels

- Internet (common social media)
- Street Prostitution (The Track/ Blade)
- Special Events
- Truck Stops
- Pornography
- Stripping
- Erotic Nude Massage
- Escort Services
- Private Parties
- Street

These can be places to recruit victims

Presentation to Medical Care

- 80% of people who have been trafficked were seen by a medical provider during the time period of the abuse
- The trafficker will often accompany the victim, and may be
 - Male or Female
 - Present as family member or friend
 - Appear caring, parental, sympathetic
 - Well spoken
 - Reluctant to leave the patient alone
- Patient may refer to pimp as “boyfriend” , “aunt”, “uncle”, “mom”, “daddy”

Sometimes these kids aren't much fun to take care of...

- They might be:
 - Hostile
 - Uncooperative
 - Fearful
 - Untrusting
 - Rude
 - Angry or dismissive
- They might not see themselves as a victim –
 - Sometimes the illusion of control is needed to maintain safety
 - They might not tell you they are being trafficked
 - But still want you to ask if they are....

**They have become survivors...
those skills aren't always the ones that make you a "nice kid"**



So... who is
trafficked?

Anyone can be a victim

(but some folks are more vulnerable than
others)

So ask them....

Go to the next module....

If you are non-clinical chose "Module 3 for non-clinical learners", otherwise go to Module 3

