

# Supporting commercially sexually exploited youth

What you can do to support youth who are at risk, currently involved or recently out of the sex trades



# Goals

Know key terms and definitions

Hear positive ways to support youth with life experience in the sex trades and youth who are close to it

Learn where to find resources

# Good news!

Wisconsin is making significant progress addressing sex trafficking of youth

Youth want resources and look for meaningful assistance

You will have opportunities to be helpful across the spectrum of youth experiences

# Trafficking of a child 948.051

“Whoever knowingly recruits, entices, provides, obtains, harbors, transports, patronizes, or solicits or knowingly attempts to recruit, entice, provide, obtain, harbor, transport, patronize, or solicit **any child for the purpose of commercial sex acts.**”

# Human Trafficking 940.302

Recruiting, enticing, harboring, transporting, providing, or obtaining, or attempting to”...**using force, fraud or coercion** “for the purposes of labor or services or a commercial sex act” and benefits in any manner from a violation...if the person knows or reasonably should have known that the benefits come from or are derived from an act or scheme described in par. [\(a\)](#).

# Youth definition of the sex trades

**Trading sex or sexual stuff for money, gifts, drugs, survival needs** for yourself or people you care about, including exotic dancing, survival sex, escorting, street work, working chat lines or party buses, having a sugar daddy or going from city to city.

Sometimes you get to keep the money or resources. Sometimes someone else keeps part or all of it. Sometimes other people can arrange it or connect you. Sometimes you make the connection on your own.

# Different experiences

Not everyone gets immersed in exploitation; some experiences are confined to one weekend

Not everyone reacts the same way

National research finding as many young men as young women exchanging sex for money or survival.

# Support before any involvement or exploitation

Many risk factors can be changed or reduced

Respond to youth in need with practical resources and unbiased support

Talk openly about what youth have heard or are getting promised



# Activity!

Trying out the new Wisconsin Child Sex Trafficking Indicator tool

# Support during involvement or exploitation

Access to healthcare

Outreach, drop-in support, low threshold services

Reduce isolation

Ask how they see their experiences

Safety, options and support

# Support during the exit process or moving forward

Change process takes time.

Start with needs they identify; show what you can offer

Building circle/network of support - can't do it alone!

# What makes for an effective resource

Respecting youth in what they want and how they see themselves

Nonjudgmental

Support in the long term

Many youth want to connect with people with similar life experiences

# Suggested kinds of resources to know

Anti-violence advocacy

Job programs

Alternative education programs

Healthcare

LGBTQ support

Shelters and independent living

Obtaining identification

Tattoo removal or cover-up

# Wisconsin resources

Wisconsin Department of Children and Families Anti-Human Trafficking Initiatives

<https://dcf.wisconsin.gov/aht>

Wisconsin DOJ Crime Victim Services information on human trafficking

<https://www.doj.state.wi.us/ocvs/human-trafficking>

National Human Trafficking Hotline Resource Directory

<https://humantraffickinghotline.org/training-resources/referral-directory>

# WI specialized resources

Proactive Outreach for the Health of Sexually Exploited Youth (POHSEY)  
**[pohsey.org](http://pohsey.org)**

Legal Options for Trafficked and Underserved Survivors (LOTUS)  
**[lotuslegal.org](http://lotuslegal.org)**

Upcoming Regional Hubs

# Research to learn more

## **Center for Court Innovation - Youth Involvement in the Sex Trade: A National Study:**

<http://www.courtinnovation.org/research/youth-involvement-sex-trade-national-study?url=research%2F3690%2Fall&mode=3690&type=all>

## **Young Women's Empowerment Project - Girls Do What They Have to Do to Survive; Illuminating Methods Used by Girls in the Sex Trade and Street Economies to Fight Back and Heal**

<https://ywepchicago.files.wordpress.com/2011/06/girls-do-what-they-have-to-do-to-survive-a-study-of-resilience-and-resistance.pdf>



# Goals we accomplished today

You know a few key terms and definitions

You heard positive ways to support youth with life experience in the sex trades and youth who are close to it

You learned where to find resources

# Questions and discussion

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