COMING HOME

Understanding and Addressing Commercial Sexual Exploitation in Native Communities

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OBJECTIVES

• **Identify the vulnerabilities** of Native youth in relation to commercial sexual exploitation (CSE) and **recognize common risk factors, characteristics, and dynamics** of CSE.

• **Create effective action plans** to address CSE on both the individual and community levels.

• **Incorporate different prevention methods** into community spaces to reduce CSE in your communities.
OUTLINE

• Commercial Sexual Exploitation & Trafficking
  • Risk Factors
  • Vulnerabilities of Native Youth
  • Characteristics and dynamics
• Safe Harbor Youth Program at MIWRC
• Intervention
  • Creating effective intervention/action plans
  • Group collaboration
• Prevention
• Questions
COMMERCIAL SEXUAL EXPLOITATION (CSE)

- The exchange of sex or a sexual act for something of value or the promise of something of value (i.e. shelter, food, money, drugs, etc.)
  - Includes sex trafficking
  - Form of Violence
  - Commercial and Sexual Objectification
EXAMPLES OF COMMERCIAL SEXUAL EXPLOITATION

- Sex trafficking
- Pornography
- Stripping
- Erotic/nude massage
- Escort services
- Phone sex lines
- Private parties
- Gang and organized crime-based trafficking
- Familial & intergenerational pimping
- Internet-based exploitation
RISK FACTORS

- History of involvement in child protection
- Minimal social support
- Poverty
- Lack of education and employment opportunities
- Exposure to domestic violence or drug use in the home
- Exposure to violence or gang activity in the community
- Truancy
- **Runaway/Homeless**
- LG BTQ/Two Spirit
- Physical, mental, or emotional health challenges
- Out of home placement
- Parent, relative, or friend involvement in gang or trafficking
- **History of sexual abuse**
A FEW NUMBERS FROM MINNESOTA...

- Average age of entry = 12-15
- Runaway youth = high risk
- About 25-40% of exploited youth are LGBT/Two Spirit
- Rates of exploitation are roughly equal between young women and young men
- Shortage of consistent reliable data for Native youth
CSE OF NATIVE YOUTH

- History and historical trauma
- High poverty rates
- High rates of substance use
- Violence against Native youth is common (MMIW)
5,712

The number of known incidents of missing & murdered Native American women in 2016.

SOURCE: National Crime Information Center

#NotInvisible

84% of Native women have experienced violence in their lifetime.

SOURCE: National Institute of Justice

#NotInvisible

On some reservations, Native American women are murdered at a rate of 10 TIMES the national average.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Justice

#NotInvisible
COMMONLY USED LANGUAGE

- Stamping/branding
- Boss
- Pimp
- Date
- Quota
- Daddy
- Boyfriend
- The Game
- The Life
- John
- Trick/Turning Tricks
- Work
GROOMING & RECRUITMENT

- Peer-to-peer recruitment
- Guerilla pimping
- Romeo/finesse pimping
- Online recruitment
Jessie is a 15-year-old who recently ran away for the first time. Jessie's parents don't seem to mind that much, so Jessie has been staying with a friend but doesn't always feel comfortable staying there every night. Jessie recently met River, an 18-year-old that had gone to the same high school, at a bus stop after school. They spent the afternoon talking, and River shared stories with Jessie about River's own home life. River said that since they moved out at 18 it's been smooth sailing. Jessie goes back to their friend's house that night but starts spending time with River after school just chatting about life. One day, River invites Jessie over to their apartment. Jessie is unsure but says okay. They stay up late talking and River convinces Jessie to take the bed while River takes the couch.

Over the next 3 months, River expresses interest in Jessie and they start dating. River keeps mentioning that it would make a lot more sense for Jessie to just move in with them for a little while until everything with Jessie's family has been figured out. Jessie agrees and shortly after moving in, Jessie and River have sexual intercourse for the first time. River tells Jessie, "I love you." A few months later, River comes home and says that they are a little short on rent. River explains to Jessie that they really need help and starts crying. River says that if Jessie goes to hang out with one of River's friends for a few hours, the friend will help them out with rent. Jessie doesn't want them to end up on the streets, so Jessie agrees to go hang out with the friend. While there, River's friend pressures Jessie into sexual activity that Jessie is not comfortable with. The friend says if Jessie does this, they help River with the rent. Afterwards, River tells Jessie that it will never happen again, but this really showed River how much Jessie cares about their relationship.
MAINTENANCE AND BARRIERS TO EXIT

• Grooming to maintenance

• Barriers to exit
  • A shortage of safe housing with appropriate services
  • Distrust of the system
  • Absence of real options for self-sufficiency
  • Fear, shame, the “don’t talk” rule
  • Lack of awareness and understanding of the crime
MIWRC’S SAFE HARBOR YOUTH PROGRAM

Direct Services

• One-on-one case management
• Support groups
• Street outreach
• Basic needs items
• Financial support
• Transportation assistance
• Appointment accompaniment
• Cultural support

Community Services

• Prevention trainings
• Conferences (Bring Her Home)
• Consultations
• Participation in community events
DEVELOPING INTERVENTION PLANS

- Ask questions
- Research
- Identify common risk factors
- Set goals and objectives
- Write intervention plan
- Monitor and evaluate plan
EXAMPLE: NATIVE COMMUNITY IN MINNEAPOLIS
EXAMPLE: 15-YEAR-OLD EXPERIENCING CSE

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PREVENTION AS INTERVENTION

- Good intervention plans involve prevention
- Prevention tools
  - Not a #Number Curriculum
  - I am Little Red Curriculum
  - Ending the Game Curriculum
  - Native Youth Toolkit on Human Trafficking
QUESTIONS?

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Thank you!