Preventing Human Trafficking/Child Sexual Exploitation in NJ
Human Trafficking Definition

“People forced to work or sell sex for another’s profit”

i.e. Modern Day Slavery
Background/History

- NJ Partnership to Prevent Child Sexual Abuse/Enough Abuse Campaign NJ
- Increased awareness about human trafficking
- Lack of focus on prevention
Minor Sex Trafficking

“The recruitment, harboring, provision, or obtaining of a person for the purpose of a commercial sex act, in which a commercial sex act is induced by force, fraud, or coercion, or in which the person forced to perform such an act is under the age of 18 years;
Definitions of Force, Fraud & Coercion

**Force**
Using violence to control someone

**Fraud**
Using lies to control someone

**Coercion**
Using threats to control someone
NYC/NJ: The Perfect Storm

- Displacement/economic stress: Hurricane Sandy
- Super Bowl 2014: February at MetLife Stadium
- Large immigrant population
- Ease of transport
NYC/NJ: The Perfect Storm

- Homelessness/substance abuse
- Attraction of fashion & entertainment industries
- Presence of gangs, violence, organized crime
- Gambling/casinos in NJ/NY/CT/PA
The Palermo Protocol

An International Framework: The “3 P’s” Paradigm

• Prevention
• Protection
• Prosecution
Preventing Human Trafficking: Strategies

1. Public Awareness Campaign

• General education about human trafficking
• Who’s at risk?
• What are the warning signs?
  Including victim identification training
• New Jersey Attorney General leading
• Advocacy
Preventing Human Trafficking: Strategies

2. Targeted Training & Education

- Professionals & community partners
  - Health care workers
  - Law enforcement & probation
  - Hotel employees
  - Taxi drivers
- Primary goals
  - Identification
  - Interdiction
  - Prosecution
3. Prevention

- Prevent girls from being recruited
- Prevent boys from playing a role - pimp or john
Risk Factors & Trafficking

Individual Level

- Sexual/physical abuse/neglect
- Runaway/homeless youth
- Mental health issues
- Unaddressed trauma
- Developmental/learning disabilities
- Substance abuse in the home
Risk Factors & Trafficking

Environmental Level

- Adult sex industry
- Substance abuse
- Transient male population
- Poverty
- Violence
- Street involved culture/economy
- Gangs/organized crime
Risk Factors & Trafficking

Broader Social Issues

- Media role
- Technology
- Acceptance of violence against women and minority groups
- Sexualization of girls and very young women
- Sexualization of boys
- Sex unattached to love & healthy relationships
- Glorification of pimp culture
Runaway and Homeless Youth

• Nationally, there are between 1.6-2.8 million runaway/homeless youth in the US

• 2012: 2,123 calls to National Runaway Safeline hotline for NJ

• On average, about 90% of missing children in the United States are runaways.

(Missing Persons Unit, NJ Bureau of Criminal Investigation)
Runaway and Homeless Youth

The average age that a person first enters into the commercial sex industry is 12-14.

Studies suggest that up to 90% of runaway youth become involved in the commercial sex industry.
Runaway and Homeless Youth

• Within 48 hours of leaving home, 1 in 3 runaway teens will be approached by someone involved in the commercial sex industry

• Use of prostitution by runaway children to provide for subsistence needs.
Prevention Education for Girls

Goal: Change attitudes!!  \[\text{CHANGE BEHAVIOR!!}\]

- Decrease teens’ perception of the commercial sex industry as innocuous or glamorous
- Increase teens’ perception of the commercial sex industry as dangerous and debilitating
Prevention Education for Girls  
(Continued)

Goal: Change attitudes!!  CHANGE BEHAVIOR!!

• Improve knowledge: Improve teens’ understanding of commercial sexual exploitation: the realities, recruitment, the demand, the violence, etc.

• Increase skills: Increase teens’ ability to recognize and reject recruitment and coercion and increase resources for survivors
Topics for Prevention:

- Understanding Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children
- Vulnerability and risk
- Pimps and recruitment
- Impact of exploitations: physical/mental trauma
- Identifying victims
- Responding to victims
- Supporting the growth and leadership of survivors
Prevention Education for Boys

To address the role that boys/men play related to human trafficking:

- Male role and definition of respect for women
- Defining issues of sexual exploitation and mdst/violence
- Role of music, media and culture in promotion norms and values
- Differences in sex and sexuality, and healthy relationships
- What needs to change/attitudes and behavior

i.e. “pimp” or “john”

Guido, Risky Business
Local Contact Information

National Human Trafficking Hotline:
1-888-3737-888

New Jersey Human Trafficking Hotline:
1-877-986-7534

Polaris Project:
New Jersey Office:
973-624-5454
nj@polarisproject.org
END CHILD ABUSE

Prevent Child Abuse
New Jersey

www.preventchildabusenj.org