

## SEX TRAFFICKING & ADOLESCENTS: WHAT ADULTS NEED TO KNOW, PART 1: COURSE NARRATION TRANSCRIPT

### Course Orientation

MALE VOICE: Let's review the features of this online course.

To control the course audio: Select the **PLAY** arrow to hear the audio narration for each screen. Select the same button to **PAUSE** the audio. Use the progress bar to rewind or skip forward in the narration. Select the **SPEAKER** button to increase or decrease the audio volume.

To navigate through the course: Use the **NEXT** and **BACK** arrow buttons to advance through the course screens. The **HOME** button will take you back to the beginning of the course. The **HELP** button will bring you to this page. The **EXIT** button will end your session and close the course window. Use the **MENU** button to freely navigate among the course sections and topics.

The **VIEW SOURCE** icon appears throughout the course to provide source information used in the development of the course content. Select the icon to view a complete list of links to content sources.

To track your learning progress: Each course section is followed by a brief Knowledge Check. At the end of the course, you will have an opportunity to print a Certificate of Completion.

### Welcome

FEMALE VOICE: Welcome to the e-learning course, Sex Trafficking and Adolescents: What Adults Need to Know. This two-part course was designed to educate adults who work with youth in adolescent pregnancy prevention and sexual risk avoidance programs to foster a deeper awareness of sexual exploitation of minors. Minors are defined as youth under eighteen.

This is Part One. Recommended strategies, action steps, and resources will be provided to help adults support and assist youth. Adults taking this course will be more knowledgeable of sex trafficking among youth and more informed about how to intervene in situations where trafficking may be taking place. However, law enforcement and legal processes related to sex trafficking vary by state, so learners participating in this e-learning course are advised to review their state laws and consult with local law enforcement, social service agencies, and other community resources.

## Why this Matters

**FEMALE VOICE:** Sexual and reproductive health risks are especially high for trafficked youth because they are forced to have numerous unprotected sexual encounters in which they are unable to prevent sexually transmitted infections, also known as STIs, or pregnancy, and there is lack of access to testing, treatment, or other support services.

Sexually exploited and trafficked youth also face an increased risk for multiple mental and physical health problems that may compound one another, adversely affecting health outcomes of the youth. Such sexual and reproductive, mental and physical health problems may include: forced/imposed or unwanted pregnancy; HIV and/or STI exposure; unwanted and/or forced termination of pregnancy; sexual assault, forced sexual encounters; psychological abuse and trauma; physical abuse; depression; post-traumatic stress reactions; psychological abuse and trauma, substance use and abuse; malnutrition; self-inflicted harm (such as cutting); depression and suicide.

**MALE VOICE:** Adults that serve youth in community and school-based programs are in a unique position to prevent, identify, and respond to potential situations of sex trafficking.

Adolescent Pregnancy Prevention Programs, or APP Programs, can also raise awareness and build efficacy and skills among youth to help them recognize and avoid risks of being involved in sex trafficking, and access resources that could help someone who is being sexually exploited or is at risk for exploitation.

## Course Overview

**FEMALE VOICE:** This course consists of two parts. In the first course, *Sex Trafficking and Adolescents: What Adults Need to Know, Part One*, key definitions and concepts related to commercial sexual exploitation and sex trafficking are introduced, and factors that can place young people at higher risk for sex trafficking are discussed, along with implications for youth education and support service needs and health outcomes.

The second course, *Sex Trafficking and Adolescents: What Adults Need to Know, Part Two*, delves into the emerging trend of youth trafficking their peers; explores the impact of sex trafficking on young people; and discusses ways adults can incorporate sex trafficking awareness, prevention, and intervention strategies into youth programs.

MALE VOICE: By the end of the course, you should be able to identify signs of potential sexual exploitation and trafficking situations that may be affecting youth in your community, including peer-to-peer exploitation, and describe practical steps for providing sexually exploited and trafficked youth and survivors with appropriate support and service referrals without inflicting further trauma.

### Part 1 Overview

FEMALE VOICE: By participating in Part One of this course, you should be able to define and understand sex trafficking in all its forms and how it affects adolescents. You should also be able to describe and identify the risks and precursors that can place young people at higher risk for sex trafficking, as well as identify signs of potential sexual exploitation and trafficking activity, including how sex trafficking may take place among peer groups.

MALE VOICE: It should take approximately sixty minutes to complete Part One of the course.

#### First Things First: What is Trafficking?

FEMALE VOICE: What is trafficking? The U.S. Government defines human trafficking as “the recruitment, harboring, transportation, provision, or obtaining of a person for labor or services, through the use of force, fraud, or coercion for the purpose of subjection to involuntary servitude, peonage, debt bondage, or slavery.”

Under the umbrella of human trafficking, specific forms of trafficking are identified such as labor and sex trafficking.

Sex trafficking means “the recruitment, harboring, transportation, provision, obtaining, patronizing, or soliciting of a person for the purpose of a commercial sex act.” If a person is younger than eighteen, “the recruitment, harboring, transportation, provision, obtaining, patronizing, or soliciting of a person for the involvement in the sale of sex or any other form of commercial sexual exploitation such as pornography and stripping meets the legal criteria of child/minor sex trafficking. Other terms used to refer to this are Commercial Sexual Exploitation of a Child, CSEC, or a Commercial Sexual Exploitation of a Minor, CSEM.

It is important to remember trafficking of minors may occur in the absence of a show of force, fraud or coercion. If a child is being used to commit a commercial sex act, or “pimped,” the child is considered a victim of trafficking; no further criteria, such as force, fraud or coercion, are required.

**MALE VOICE:** This e-learning course will focus on the impact of sex trafficking on adolescents. We will explore the various types of sex trafficking among minors and then delve into a specific type of sex trafficking in which young people may exploit their peers. This is known as peer-to-peer trafficking.

What is CSEC?

**FEMALE VOICE:** The Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children, or CSEC, can be defined in part as sexual activity involving a young person under the age of eighteen in exchange for something of value in the form of cash or goods, either to the young person involved or to other persons, in which that young person is treated as a commercial and sexual object.

CSEC or CSEM is a broad term that includes any form of commercial sexual exploitation of a minor who may be a foreign national, immigrant, or U.S. citizen. Commercial sexual exploitation may include: predatory relationships, prostitution, pornography, stripping, erotic / nude massage, escort services, phone sex lines, private parties, gang-based prostitution, interfamilial pimping, various forms of internet-based exploitation, and survival sex.

Survival sex is defined as exchanging one's body for basic subsistence needs, including clothing, food, and shelter. It is a form of currency on the street, and homeless and runaway youth fall prey to this for several reasons.

A youth under the age of eighteen cannot legally consent to working in any part of the sex industry and is therefore automatically considered a victim of sex trafficking.

**MALE VOICE:** Use of the term CSEC/M (Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children or Minors) throughout this course is meant to be inclusive of any and all forms of commercial sexual exploitation or sex trafficking of youth or minors.

The Continuum of Abuse

**MALE VOICE:** It can be difficult to distinguish between instances of sexual abuse or sexual exploitation of youth, and the commercial sexual exploitation of youth because they are closely related.

The continuum of abuse illustrates these concepts by showing the relationship or progression from one end of the spectrum to the other. The continuum shows how norms and beliefs influence or allow for an environment where sexual abuse through exploitation can occur. The broader social determinants shown on the graphic contribute to the spectrum of abuse.

FEMALE VOICE: Child sexual abuse is “any sexual activity with a child.” Youth and minors cannot legally consent to sex. Sexually abusive acts include the creation of pornographic images and other non-contact acts such as exposure or voyeurism.

The sexual exploitation of children often involves situations in which the imbalance of power between an adult and a youth under eighteen years of age is exploited for the purpose of the adult’s sexual pleasure and may or may not include remuneration or payment of some kind to the child.

“If a child is being used to commit a commercial sex act, or “pimped,” the child is considered a victim of trafficking; no further criteria such as force, fraud, or coercion are required.” A distinguishing characteristic of CSEC can sometimes be the presence of a third party who benefits from the exploitation, either financially or by other forms of remuneration.

MALE VOICE: Remember: a “commercial sex act” is “any sex act on account of which anything of value is given to, or received by, any person.”

#### Types of Sex Trafficking and Recruitment

MALE VOICE: Common types of sex trafficking and recruitment affecting adolescents today include: pimp-controlled sex trafficking, familial sex trafficking; gang related sex trafficking, survival sex, peer to peer recruiting, and out of home care recruiting. Let’s briefly define each of those here.

FEMALE VOICE: Pimp-controlled trafficking refers to the organized system of a trafficker controlling a young person, coercing them into performing sex acts for which the pimp is paid.

Familial trafficking occurs when family members allow their youth to be sexually exploited in exchange for anything of value. Oftentimes, it involves drugs or cash.

Gang related trafficking involves a group of people which the young person becomes associated with, often with a keen sense of belonging and loyalty. The gang benefits from goods, favors, or cash generated from sex.

Survival sex is when a young person, often a youth that runs away, is homeless or in desperate need of support, resorts to exchanging sexual services for basic needs. This may include, but not be limited to: a couch to sleep on, food, clothing, or transportation. Survival sex may not involve an exchange of cash, but it is becoming the norm among the most vulnerable youth. While most survival sex may happen between a youth in need of help who sees no other options, and an adult with resources to fill the need who in turn sees the opportunity to take advantage of the situation, survival sex may also take place

between young people. It only takes one person being in dire need and another who seizes the opportunity to take advantage using resources they have.

Peer-to-peer recruiting is a phenomenon that has been receiving more attention of late because of its growing prevalence in locations previously thought of to be safe, such as schools. It is hard to detect because the exploitation happens among groups of friends, romantic relationships, and other intimate social circles. The exploitation is gradual and may even happen by chance. It may start off as a favor or a one-time event, such as sex being exchanged to settle a small debt.

Finally, it is not uncommon for traffickers to visit potential victims or trafficked youth in out-of-home care facilities to maintain contact and control. Traffickers may also try to recruit other young people for trafficking by sending one of their exploited youth into group homes to lure other young people to leave that out-of-home care facility. Traffickers may also attempt to manipulate the justice system by posing as family members as a way to maintain contact and control.

MALE VOICE: Sexually exploited or trafficked youth often do not recognize the situation they are in or are reluctant to admit that the person they love, or their friends, might be capable of such exploitative behavior.

Demand for Sex Trafficking: What You Need to Know

FEMALE VOICE: What contributes to the demand for sex trafficking? According to Human Exploitation and Trafficking Watch, we can and should assume that the sex trafficking of youth happens in every community across the U.S., from rural to urban.

Consider these questions: Why is there a demand for underage sex? Who is taking advantage of youth for sex? What factors in our society contribute to demand? Why doesn't our society address the demand more?

MALE VOICE: Sex trafficking is a market-driven criminal industry that is based on the principles of supply and demand. People who purchase commercial sex increase the demand for commercial sex and likewise provide a profit incentive for traffickers, who seek to maximize profits by exploiting trafficking victims. Buyers of commercial sex need to recognize their involvement in driving demand. By not buying sex and not participating in the commercial sex industry, community members can reduce the demand for sex trafficking.

FEMALE VOICE: Purchasing sex from a minor has always been a crime; however, the Justice for Victims of Trafficking Act of 2015, has added amendments that strengthens the trafficking laws. Among these amendments are changes in the criminal liability of buyers of commercial sex from victims of trafficking, the creation of a survivor-led U.S. Advisory Council on Human Trafficking, and new directives for the implementation of a national strategy for combating human trafficking. It also immediately treats people who are trafficked as “victims” which prevents them from being prosecuted and immediately connects them to services.

### Addressing the Demand

MALE VOICE: This graphic illustrates some contributing factors to the demand for sex trafficking of youth.

These factors range from broader social attitudes to opportunities for abuse to take place, and they include: the glamorization of the pimp culture, the presence of adult sex industry, a general acceptance of violence towards individuals in the sex industry, the dehumanization of persons in the sex industry and trafficking victims; no perceived consequences for buyers of sex, leniency with regards to punishment for buyers, widespread use of pornography, easy access to the internet, and the proliferation of social networking websites and apps.

Who is a trafficker?

MALE VOICE: There are distinct types of sex traffickers who exploit youth. Among them are traffickers, situational abusers, pedophiles, and peer-to-peer traffickers. Let’s briefly define each.

FEMALE VOICE: The term "exploiter" can describe either a trafficker or customer -- anyone who exploits a youth for sex.

Specifically, the term trafficker can describe any person who: purchases the use of a young person for sexual purposes; engages a young person in sexual acts; creates images of a young person engaged in sexual acts; recruits, entices, harbors, transports, provides, obtains, advertises, maintains, patronizes, solicits, or by any other means endeavors to make a young person available to a third person or persons for sexual purposes; or benefits financially, including receiving anything of value, by participating in any of these activities.

## Types of Traffickers and Recruiters

FEMALE VOICE: Situational abusers are individuals who use youth for sex, not because they have such a predisposition, but because they find themselves in a situation where it is possible to do so. These individuals engage in the criminal activity of having sex with minors without necessarily feeling particularly sexually attracted to them.

Situational abusers may be youth themselves. A young person, due to experiences of abuse or other factors, may manifest an inclination to take advantage of vulnerable peers in a sexual manner. They may even create opportunities to take advantage of their peers, such as getting them drunk at parties.

Pedophiles are people with a sexual attraction to children. Manifest acts, such as taking sexually explicit photographs, molesting children, and exposing one's genitalia to children, are all crimes committed by pedophiles. The demand drives the commercialization of sex and the commercial exploitation of minors. Those who sexually abuse youth might typically be thought of as pedophiles. However, pedophilia is a strict clinical diagnosis, and not an accurate description of what motivates many of these customers. Many are not technically pedophiles, but rather situational abusers. This is an important distinction.

Peer-to-peer traffickers can include friends and partners of young people who exploit their peers for personal gain in peer-to-peer trafficking situations.

MALE VOICE: It is important to consider the complex web of factors that contribute to the demand for children and youth for commercial sex.

Who are the buyers?

FEMALE VOICE: Buyers are individuals who pay for sex with minors and thus represent the demand for commercial sexual exploitation and sex trafficking of minors. These individuals may actively seek to purchase sex with underage individuals or may be unaware of or uninterested in their age.

Despite the fact that demand is the primary driver of the commercial sex industry and the commercial sexual exploitation of children, buyers are often not recognized as critical participants in the victimization of children through domestic minor sex trafficking.

MALE VOICE: All buyers of sex with children- whether they be classified as preferential, opportunistic, or situational- are committing a serious crime for which legal punishment is appropriate.

## Federal Law, Language, and Sensitivity

**MALE VOICE:** Federal Law provides language and definitions based on legal guidelines for sex trafficking. Throughout this course, we will use Federal Law to provide a legal definition. For example, CSEC and sex trafficking are forms of child abuse as defined by Federal Law and in twenty-three States. As previously stated, The Justice for Victims of Trafficking Act of 2015 strengthens trafficking laws.

**FEMALE VOICE:** Using a trauma-informed approach (which we will discuss in Part Two of this course), and guidance from content experts working with sexually exploited and trafficked youth suggests the need for using intentional language and sensitivity when discussing the sex trafficking of youth and to be aware how language can frame an issue. For example, the general public and the media tend to label sexually exploited and trafficked youth with degrading and dehumanizing terms, such as ‘child prostitute.’ Mislabeling often leads to misidentification of sexually exploited and trafficked youth. The term “sexually exploited youth” is internationally recognized as preferable to that of “teen/child prostitute” because it more accurately reflects the reality of youth involved in commercial sex activities to which they cannot willingly or legally consent and are therefore exploited.

Language is particularly critical during interactions between service providers and youth. Labels often evoke a negative stereotype or assign blame on the person experiencing a hardship, which may cause youth to disengage from a program or discourage them from accessing services. A more appropriate approach is to use language that describes environments or conditions.

For example, instead of saying “drug addicted youth,” say “youth affected by substance use or abuse.” And instead of “runaway youth,” use the phrasing “unaccompanied youth in temporarily unstable living arrangements,” the latter specifically giving the youth an indirect assurance that their situation is not permanent and that there is hope.

Using appropriate language when discussing sexual exploitation of minors helps to reframe the issues as forms of abuse, and more accurately identifies sexually exploited and trafficked youth as persons in need of support services.

## National Statistics

**MALE VOICE:** Now that we’ve defined some key terms, let’s look at what data we have on human trafficking and sex trafficking of youth in the United States.

FEMALE VOICE: In 2017, the National Human Trafficking Hotline received 26,557 calls, and 8,524 human trafficking cases reported across the U.S. and territories (Virgin Islands, Guam, and Puerto Rico). Of these cases, 6,081 were sex trafficking, 1,249 were labor trafficking, 817 were “trafficking type not specified,” and 377 were sex and labor.

In 2016, one in six of runaways reported to the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children were likely victims of sex trafficking. One in thirty adolescent minors ages thirteen to seventeen endures some form of homelessness in a year. A quarter of the prevalence involves couch surfing only.

According to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, “one in three young people are approached or recruited by a pimp or exploiter within the first 48 hours of being on the street.”

MALE VOICE: We must remind ourselves that the true incidence and prevalence of sexually exploited and trafficked youth is unknown. Most service providers believe very strongly that these statistics are underestimated and that “accurately estimating the incidence and prevalence of a public health problem is important but these statistics are elusive for sex trafficking and/or commercial sexual exploitation of children because of the criminal nature of the activity, lack of a centralized database, differences in interpretation of definitions, under-recognition of exploited persons by authorities, and under-reporting by victims themselves.”

### Myths & Stereotypes

MALE VOICE: There are many myths about commercial sex trafficking that can impede the identification of victims. When myths are not distinctly dispelled, it is inevitable that intervention efforts are inhibited or unsuccessful.

FEMALE VOICE: Three common myths about commercial sex trafficking are: trafficking is defined by the crossing of state or national borders; only foreign nationals can be victims of trafficking; and trafficking only happens in economically disadvantaged communities.

In fact, trafficking happens within the United States, victims can be of any nationality and trafficking happens to youth across all demographics, including race, ethnicity, sexual orientation, gender, age, and social class. Sex trafficking is more common than people realize and is happening in places people may be least likely to expect.

## Common Stereotypes

FEMALE VOICE: Stereotypes also hinder effective identification of commercial sexual exploitation and successful interventions. Some common stereotypes held about the victims and perpetrators of sex trafficking include: Sexually exploited and trafficked youth make lots of money, drive fancy cars, live in big houses, wear nice clothes, and look like models; Sexually exploited and trafficked youth have parents who are incapable of caring for them. While there is a link between household dysfunction, abuse or parental neglect and vulnerability to sex trafficking, even youth in stable home environments may become victims of sexual exploitation and trafficking. An example would be the youthful teen who falls prey to a controlling lover who turns into a pimp; Youth become involved in commercial sex because they love sex; Youth are exchanging sex for food, shelter, or a ride because it is their choice; Being a victim of sex trafficking is a choice; Youth victims of trafficking can leave this situation anytime; Youth in the commercial sex industry are bad kids; Commercial sexual exploitation is employment; Being in ‘the life’ can be exciting and glamorous; All pimps, recruiters, or abusers are male; Only young girls are at risk for being sexually exploited.

## Peer-to-Peer Trafficking

MALE VOICE: Perhaps the most evident example of commercial sex trafficking of youth that dispels many of these myths and stereotypes is that of peer-to-peer trafficking, specifically involving youth under eighteen.

Peer-to-peer trafficking happens when sexual exploitation occurs among peers – within social circles, intimate relationships, or among groups of friends.

FEMALE VOICE: Some characteristics of this phenomenon include youth who begin making money for sex may become recruiters themselves. They may not necessarily be traffickers but may serve as recruiters for a trafficker.

Youth who engage their peers in sex for cash may present the behavior or activity as exciting and risky (pushing boundaries). Youth may find themselves in a new peer group who have material things others may not, such as the latest cell phone, brand name shoes or purses, etc. Youth who find themselves with a group of trafficked peers may stay because it is their only support system. Youth may fall susceptible to trafficking in order to belong or maintain a heightened status among their peers.

It is also important to consider scenarios such as a young person whose intimate partner asks him or her to have sex with friends “just this one time” because he or she “owes them a favor,” or those required to have sex with others as part of a gang initiation, as well as young people who are trafficked by family members for money, to settle a debt or gain favors.

Myth or Fact?

MALE VOICE: For this activity, choose whether each of the following statements is a MYTH or FACT, then use the CHECK button to check your answers.

There are nine questions in total. Click START to begin.

### Section 1 Summary

FEMALE VOICE: So far in this course we have discussed: Essential terms related to the sex trafficking of youth; The Continuum of Abuse; Factors contributing to the "demand side" of commercial sex trafficking; Statistics relevant to the issue of sex trafficking of youth in the U.S.; The definition of peer-to-peer trafficking; Common myths and stereotypes related to the sex trafficking of youth, including peer-to-peer trafficking.

### Knowledge Check 1

MALE VOICE: This Knowledge Check reviews the information covered in the first section of this course. Choose your answers, and select the NEXT arrow to continue. At the end of the quiz, you will be able to review your answers and all of the correct responses. Use the CANCEL button to exit the quiz and skip to the next course topic at any time.

### Risks & Precursors

MALE VOICE: Now let’s look at some risks and precursors for youth recruitment into sex trafficking. This will include examining risk factors, pathways to entry, and some warning signs of potential trafficking.

FEMALE VOICE: In this section, we will: Identify factors that put a young person at risk for recruitment into sex trafficking; Describe the differences between, and investigate examples of, individual, environmental, and social risk factors; Discuss pathways and entries for recruitment into sex trafficking; Review recruitment strategies employed by traffickers and peers, including the use of social media; Describe reasons why some youth may be drawn into exploitative and/or predatory relationships;

Discuss why some victims don't ask for help; and Identify warning signs among youth that may signal sex trafficking.

### Risk Factors

**MALE VOICE:** Throughout a typical experience of growing up, youth are likely to engage in one or more of the following: having access to a computer/digital device; attraction to consumer goods; a desire to develop romantic relationships; sometimes feel insecure and/or misunderstood; fight with their parents; sometimes feel their parents and/or other adults don't care; wanting more independence; walking alone to school/store; and testing boundaries and taking risks.

**FEMALE VOICE:** These common characteristics of youth development are also things traffickers of youth often prey upon. This means most young people are at some risk of sexual exploitation, however, research shows there are certain factors that can place youth at even higher risk for recruitment into sex trafficking situations.

These high-risk factors may be categorized as individual, social, or environmental in nature. These will be explained in more detail.

### Individual Risk Factors

**FEMALE VOICE:** Individual risk factors are "events or characteristics of an individual's life." Youth who have experienced the following are at a higher risk for recruitment into commercial sex trafficking:

Have suffered sexual and physical abuse or neglect or are runaway or homeless. Traffickers target homeless and runaway youth because these young people often lack the skills and basic needs to survive on their own, according to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

Youth who identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, or questioning (LGBTQ). Traffickers target individuals who lack strong support networks, are facing financial strains, have experienced violence in the past, or who are marginalized by society. Without adequate community support, youth who identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, or questioning may be displaced and engage in survival sex to meet their needs. LGBTQ youth are at particular risk for sex trafficking.

Youth, particularly young males, often become involved in commercial sex for survival purposes. These young people tend to struggle to identify themselves as exploited due to feelings of shame and social stigma associated with commercial sex.

Youth in out-of-home care are particularly vulnerable to commercial sexual exploitation and sex trafficking due to a lack of connection to responsible adults, possible abuse history, susceptibility to peer recruitment, and instability in housing or permanent home placement. Traffickers often target youth in out of home care for these reasons.

MALE VOICE: Other risk factors for young people include: mental health issues, substance use, unaddressed trauma, developmental or learning disabilities, family conflict or dysfunction, and experience with unhealthy and abusive relationships.

The characteristic of resiliency, though often a protective factor, can also put youth at increased risk. When a young person feels that they are in control of a situation, they may not realize or accept that they are being manipulated into a commercial sexual exploitation.

#### Social Risk Factors

FEMALE VOICE: Social risk factors are the foundations of our culture that make sex trafficking possible. In other words, these are the ways in which our society promotes or perpetuates commercial sexual exploitation, including: racism; sexism and misogyny; homophobia; transphobia; sexualization of girls and young women; sexualization of boys and young men; acceptance of violence against women and minority groups; glorification of pimp culture, which objectifies women as property that can be traded, valued as material goods, and manipulated at will by someone with power over them; materialism and consumerism; access to technology; and the lack of awareness of sex trafficking.

#### Environmental Risk Factors

FEMALE VOICE: Environmental risk factors come from an individual's neighborhood or community. This can include the presence or prevalence of the following: lack of opportunities; violence in the home or neighborhood; gangs and gang involvement; substance use; and the demand for commercial sex and transient male populations— for example, areas of tourism, business centers, military bases, truck stops, and prominent sporting events are some examples of places with transient male populations. These places are often commercial in nature, where people are afforded relative anonymity, and therefore can have an increased demand for commercial sex.

A street-involved culture or economy such as hustling or exchanging sex for shelter, food, or money also contributes to an individual's risk of engaging in commercial sex, as well as a proximity to state, territory, or international borders, and under-resourced schools and communities.

## Risk Factor Scenarios

MALE VOICE: Let's consider these risk factors in context.

Click on each image to consider a story about a young person facing risk factors for involvement in sex trafficking. Once you've answered the questions for each scenario, you can also select each REFLECTION button for further reflection questions.

### Scenario 1: Justin

FEMALE VOICE: Justin is fifteen and does not get along with his new stepfather, who is rather abusive. Rather than coming home to his unhappy household, Justin starts sleeping at friends' houses as often as he can.

One night, his stepfather tells Justin that he might as well pack his bags if he doesn't like being around him. Justin didn't think his mom will protect him, so he leaves and spends a few nights at a teen shelter. There he meets Oscar, who comes around to talk to another youth. Justin hits it off with Oscar and leaves the shelter with him. He ends up sleeping in Oscar's modest apartment. Justin is impressed at how Oscar, who is only nineteen, seemed to be doing well and is generous enough to offer him a place to stay. Oscar seems to have lots of girlfriends-- older girlfriends. Soon Justin figures out how Oscar could afford to keep his apartment.

One night, Oscar asks Justin to let one of his women friends sleep with him in his bed. Before Justin could protest, the woman enters his room. Justin had sex before with his girlfriend, but this is new to him. He feels awkward and does not want to be in bed with the woman, but he tells himself it is the least he could do for Oscar. He owes Oscar so much for letting him stay here, sharing his food and loaning him money. Justin agrees to have sex with some of Oscar's customers because he feels obligated in exchange for staying at Oscar's apartment for free. Soon, Justin finds himself in bed with different women two or three times a week.

MALE VOICE: What are the individual risk factors for Justin in this trafficking scenario?

### Scenario 2: Brianna

FEMALE VOICE: Brianna is not quite eighteen and is a senior in high school. When she was younger, she admired older girls who walked around in designer jeans and had fancy purses. Since she turned seventeen, she had known she had to find a way to make money to afford those things, and it wasn't going to be working at McDonald's.

She starts hanging out with the girls in her neighborhood and at school who have these “nice things”-- clothes, shoes, bags, hairstyles, and makeup-- and soon discovers they make their money by going to exclusive parties with older guys and flirting with them. She is enticed by the nice gifts that the party host gives the girls.

Brianna asks for an invitation to one of these parties, and while she’s there, she drinks and gets high. One of her new friends introduces Brianna to her “Gucci Daddies.” She starts flirting with the two older men at the party, who soon lead her into another room alone. The two men dig into their pockets and show Brianna more money than she has ever held in her hands. This makes her giddy. The men start touching her and she lets them. She has had sex before and doesn’t think it is a big deal to sleep with these two guys. A few days later she goes shopping.

MALE VOICE: What are the social risk factors for Brianna in this trafficking scenario?

### Scenario 3: Maria

FEMALE VOICE: Maria is a sixteen-year-old girl living in a neighborhood known for heavy gang activity. She starts dating Darrell, who is involved in a gang. Darrell takes Maria to a party and introduces her to some other gang members at the house. Soon she starts hanging out with Darrell and his friends often, and by the second party she attends at the house, she gets a tattoo, uses drugs and alcohol, and has sex with Darrell. While at the house for a party one night, Maria gets high and is forced to have sex with one of the other men. The next day, one of the girls in the gang gives her some money for new clothes.

She learns the girls at the house are expected to have sex with men that pay money to the gang, allowing them to keep the party house paid for and the refrigerator stocked. She is beaten by Darrell every time she asks to leave or refuses to have sex with him or others.

MALE VOICE: What are the environmental risk factors faced by Maria in this trafficking scenario?

### Pathways to Recruitment

MALE VOICE: There are multiple entries, or pathways, through which youth can be recruited into sex trafficking. Places where exploiters recruit youth can include, in no particular order: off the street; internet or social media (for example, Twitter, Instagram, Snapchat, etc.); out-of-home care or group homes; residential service facilities; community centers; homeless shelters; schools; juvenile justice facilities; bus stops; train or metro stops; shopping centers or malls; concerts and sporting events.

FEMALE VOICE: It is important to realize that youth may never leave or withdraw from schools or service programs yet still can be victims of a sex trafficking situation.

The most vulnerable young people are those that possess one or more of the high-risk factors discussed earlier. Traffickers exploit these vulnerabilities. For example, youth who are impoverished may believe in the trafficker's promise for a better life. Youth who have run away or are living on the street may be taken in by a trafficker who provides food, shelter, or clothing. Youth using online social networks may be lured by a trafficker as they strike up friendships.

Young men and women may also pose as a potential romantic partner to recruit and exploit a young person. In some cases, youth who are being trafficked continue to have intimate relationships with their trafficker, considering them their girlfriend or boyfriend. Both scenarios are considered "pimp trafficking," only one of several different tactics used by traffickers to recruit youth.

#### Recruitment Strategies and Tactics

FEMALE VOICE: A common recruitment strategy in peer-to-peer trafficking is the use of seduction and coercion by a love interest or platonic friend.

Recruitment of vulnerable youth in out-of-home care or group homes and live-in facilities may involve a young recruiter who enrolls in these services or programs, looking for someone to recruit. They befriend a vulnerable youth, offering a shoulder to lean on and a friend to go on adventures with, eventually leading into sex trafficking.

MALE VOICE: Traffickers can recruit youth through a variety of strategies. These can include getting a child into compromising situation and threatening to expose them; the use of violence and force; false advertising for "modeling," "acting," or "dancing" opportunities; internet enticement through chat rooms or profile-sharing sites; and coercion into manipulation by family members. Romantic partners sometimes take photos of each other without clothing on or in sexual acts. The young exploiter then sells the pictures to their friends, other people, or online.

#### Control Tactics

FEMALE VOICE: Tactics used by traffickers to maintain control over their victims include: providing false feelings of love and affection; promise of better situations; creating a dependency on drugs or alcohol; isolating; physical abuse, violence; sexual abuse, and/or verbal abuse; controlling access to food and shelter; threats or intimidation; and threatening family, friends, or other victims.

MALE VOICE: In addition to these tactics, there are various other strategies traffickers use to recruit vulnerable young people into a variety of different trafficking scenarios. For example, family members trafficking other family members, gang-related trafficking activity, and youth engaging in survival sex.

#### Additional Recruitment Strategies

MALE VOICE: More often than not, the strategies and tactics used by traffickers and recruiters to lure young people into various commercial sex scenarios center around relationship-building and meeting a need.

Traffickers will often create a seemingly loving and caring relationship with a victim in order to establish trust, dependence, and allegiance, thus making their young target even more vulnerable. One common variation of this is cultivating a romantic relationship in which a trafficker will spend time slowly isolating their victim from others, and convincing a youth of their love before eventually selling their victim for sex.

Traffickers can be any age, any race or ethnicity, and can identify as male, female, or transgender.

FEMALE VOICE: Trauma bonding is common among sexually exploited and trafficked youth. The victims experience a strong link to the pimp or trafficker based on what the child perceives as an important relationship, but one where there has been an exploitation of trust or power.

For homeless or runaway youth, recruiters will often convince vulnerable young people to engage in a less explicit form of sexual exchange such as massage, erotic dancing, or domination activities, so that sexual exchange is an ever-present option a homeless youth must consider as a means to afford basic needs. Homeless youth are surrounded by solicitations to engage in less explicit sex exchange opportunities only to then be asked, “What would you do for X amount of money?” In that context, it is difficult to turn down an opportunity to make that money when a young person is desperate for basic needs like food and shelter. These abusers know the needs of youth living in the streets and they take advantage of these vulnerabilities.

MALE VOICE: Why are these strategies effective? To answer that, let’s take a closer look at what needs victims of sex trafficking have, and how traffickers meet them.

#### Unmet Needs

FEMALE VOICE: Traffickers know how to manipulate the youth they exploit, finding and offering to meet the needs of the vulnerable youth.

In many cases vulnerable youth look for love or individual attention, transportation, need a place to stay, or some income while also trying to gain a sense of excitement, desirability, and independence.

Adults who work with youth should consider these as they begin to look out for youth who may be potentially exploited.

**MALE VOICE:** At the same time, consider the needs of these young people that are NOT being met by traffickers, including a long list of tangible and intangible basic needs such as long-term stable housing, education, opportunities to develop new skills and strengths, medical care, personal respect and safety, positive adult role models, economic independence, job opportunities and upward mobility among others.

As a youth-serving adult working with young people at potential risk for sex trafficking, consider what skills you bring to the table, both personally and professionally, that can meet the needs of these youth. In Part Two of this course, we will discuss some recommended steps for addressing suspected exploitation or trafficking situations.

It is important to recognize the capacity of all individuals engaged in youth services to meet the needs of young survivors of sex trafficking.

### Identifying CSEC

**MALE VOICE:** Many communities report a lack of victim identification training as a major obstacle in appropriately addressing sex trafficking. This is especially true when the trafficking is taking place among peers, where youth do not recognize that they are being exploited.

Let's look at some ways to identify youth who are being sexually exploited.

**FEMALE VOICE:** One of the challenges in identifying sex trafficking victims and survivors is that traffickers often physically and psychologically manipulate and intimidate them into secrecy.

Also, some persons who are or have been trafficked for sex do not initially realize the extent of the manipulation, and may not identify as victims at all, while others may still protect their traffickers, even if they wish to seek help.

Signs may even be less discernible when the youth is being exploited by their own parents or family members. In such cases, youth may view exploitation as simply "helping the family out."

In instances where the youth is manipulated by someone they are in a relationship with and care about, the youth may not recognize that they are being exploited.

MALE VOICE: Although there are no tell-tale signs that a person is being trafficked for sexual purposes, there are some physical, material, and behavioral indications to be aware of.

Injuries or bruises particularly on the wrists, arms, and neck may indicate force or restraint. Poor hygiene, a tired look alternating with an exceedingly dressed-up appearance on some days may also be a sign of forced sex work. If a young person has tattoos or branding he or she is hesitant to show or explain, especially if they include words that indicate ownership-- such as daddy, daddy's girl or boy, *padróte*, or the name of a trafficker-- could be a sign of sex trafficking.

Material signs may include gifts from unknown sources, motel keys or keycards in their possession, large amounts of cash on hand, and new or pre-paid cell phones are potential signs of commercial sex activity.

#### Identifying CSEC: Behavioral Signs

FEMALE VOICE: It is important to look at behavioral signs that may indicate that a young person may be in a trafficking situation. What types of relationships does the young person maintain? The presence of a much older "friend" or "boyfriend" they appear fearful of, or a young person who is often accompanied by an older male or female who tends to speak for them are red flags. Other signs are the use of advanced, age-inappropriate sexual terms, or talking about engaging in developmentally unusual or inappropriate sexual behaviors or practices. Changes in usual activities or friends; hobbies, demeanor, or economic circumstances; use of street language; and frequently running away from home or attempting to run away from home are also important behavioral signs to pay attention to.

Also consider a young person's attitude, or changes in attitude, such as demonstrating a distrust of law enforcement, an unusual anxiety, fear, or inhibition around law enforcement, general disrespect or indifference toward authority, and/or anger and defiance toward law enforcement.

MALE VOICE: In relation to their physical health, sexually exploited and trafficked youth may be resistant to seeking or receiving basic medical services or haven't received medical care for infection or injuries; may have recurrent sexually transmitted infections or numerous previous pregnancies; may be addicted to drugs and experienced an overdose; and may have experienced multiple abortions or miscarriages.

### Identifying CSEC: School Performance

MALE VOICE: More specific to youth-serving adults working in school systems or other education context, some school performance and academic signs of potential trafficking include and are not limited to: frequently absent from school, truancy, or inconsistently attend school activities; have declining grades; and/or exhibit tiredness throughout the day, such as falling asleep in class.

FEMALE VOICE: It is important to note: The reality is that there is not a “one size fits all” approach to identifying commercially sexually exploited children, and some behaviors may present differently depending on a number of factors. Not all sexually exploited youth and trafficked youth will show the physical, material, behavioral, attitudinal, health, or academic or school performance signs described here.

### Identifying Sex Trafficking: A Scenario

MALE VOICE: Let’s look at some of these signs of a potential sex trafficking situation in context.

FEMALE VOICE: Ashley is seventeen, has a toddler, and began this year at her alternative high school as a vibrant, happy girl. She attends an after-school youth development program for teen parents. She meets Brandon through mutual friends, and discovers he has dropped out of school and lives on his own. Brandon always looks sharp, drives his own car, and draws people to him like a magnet when he pulls up at the school to socialize.

Brandon asks Ashley out, and they quickly become an item. Ashley loves the attention she gets by being with him, and is soon wearing new shoes, nice clothes, and carries a new smartphone that she checks constantly.

After a few months, however, Ashley’s behavior changes. She is startled when her phone rings, and the special ringtone that used to make her smile seems to make her anxious. She becomes noticeably withdrawn, disengaged, and often appears excessively tired, especially after weekends. She rarely talks about her toddler anymore, and has stopped attending the after-school program.

Brandon picks her up every day, sometimes before school is even out, so she ditches school to be with him. Her friends comment about how she sometimes stays out all night with Brandon, leaving her mother to care for her child. They talk about how she's “changed” and seems afraid of making Brandon

unhappy. The school counselor says he has tried to speak to Ashley about her falling grades and recent attendance issues, but she has found every excuse not to meet with him.

MALE VOICE: Take a moment for reflection. What are some red flags for you about Ashley?

Why is Identifying Sex Trafficking Difficult?

MALE VOICE: Even with these potential signs of trafficking in mind, there are many scenarios in which a young person being sexually exploited and trafficked may show no specific signs of their situation.

FEMALE VOICE: In some cases, young people do not identify as victims, and aren't looking to be "rescued." This is often the case when the exploiter is a peer or someone they are in a relationship with or they care about.

Other barriers to identifying possible exploited youth include being misidentified by social service agencies or mislabeled as criminals instead of victims.

Technology can often disguise the real age of those involved, and exploited youth are trained to lie about their age and tell fabricated stories about their lives.

Technology is also a vehicle for recruiting; all apps and social media sites can be used for recruiting purposes. For example, an app that at first glance may appear innocuous, such as a calculator, but when a specific code is entered, it can serve as a secret photo vault of girls for sale.

MALE VOICE: Sexually exploited and trafficked youth are also trained by traffickers to distrust authority. Traffickers maintain a strong physical and psychological hold over their victims. Plus, some exploited youth may be running away from an abusive situation at home. Youth don't self-identify as trafficking victims.

FEMALE VOICE: Due to the broad set of circumstances in which a young person can become involved in sex trafficking, there are a slew of reasons he or she may not ask for help which may include, but not limited to: lack of or limited family or social support; normalization of abuse and/or sex for survival; preservation of "way of life"; may be confined and/or closely monitored by trafficker; juvenile arrest histories or prior treatment as a criminal; feeling that no one will understand, isolated from support services; trauma bonding; fear and distrust; threats of violence and reprisal against loved ones; language and social barriers or displacement; no personal ID or documents; shame, self-blame, hopelessness; and

if addicted to drugs, may be willing to do anything to avoid going without to avoid withdrawal symptoms.

### How to Engage Potential Victims

**MALE VOICE:** Being able to identify victims does not solve the problem of how to engage them. In Part Two of this course, we will delve into some tips and strategies for engaging youth who may be involved in a sex trafficking situation.

For now, refer to the risk factors and pathways to sex trafficking discussed so far in this course, and consider the physical, behavioral, and school performance signs that can help adults working with youth identify a possible sex trafficking situation.

### Section 2 Summary

**FEMALE VOICE:** In the second half of this course, we described factors that put a young person at high risk for recruitment into sex trafficking that may be individual, environmental, or social; discussed pathways for recruitment into commercial sex trafficking; reviewed some recruitment strategies used by traffickers; and identified signs of a potential exploitation or trafficking situation.

### Knowledge Check 2

**MALE VOICE:** This Knowledge Check reviews the information covered in the second section of this course. Choose your answers, and select the NEXT arrow to continue. At the end of the quiz, you will be able to review your answers and all of the correct responses. Use the CANCEL button to exit the quiz and skip to the next course topic at any time.

### Part 1 Summary

**MALE VOICE:** Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children, or CSEC, is an important public health crisis facing the U.S. and worldwide. In this first course we have covered a lot of information.

It is not possible to cover every aspect of the commercial sexual exploitation and trafficking of youth in this e-learning course; the intention of this course is to provide adults who work with youth an overview of sex trafficking and raise awareness among adults to be better prepared to recognize the signs of sex trafficking among youth, and intervene in situations where trafficking may be taking place, and if possible intervene and assist sexually exploited and trafficked youth to secure services.

We have provided a wealth of additional resources.

FEMALE VOICE: In the first part of this course we have covered the definition of CSEC (Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children) in the context of sex trafficking, looked at some national statistics related to sex trafficking in the United States, examined the demand side of commercial sex-- looking at who are the traffickers, including situational abusers and the buyers.

We identified types of sex trafficking and recruitment, including peer-to-peer trafficking. We dispelled some common myths and stereotypes related to sex trafficking of youth. We identified high risk factors for youth recruitment into sex trafficking situations that can be individual, social, and environmental.

We also looked at some pathways to recruitment traffickers employ to exploit youth and signs to look for that may indicate a potential exploitation or trafficking situation. Finally, we examined a number of physical and behavioral signs to look for that may indicate a young person may be in a trafficking situation.

At the completion of Part One, you should be able to: define and understand sex trafficking in all its forms and how it affects adolescents; describe and identify the risks and precursors that can place young people at higher risk for sex trafficking; and identify signs of potential sexual exploitation and trafficking activity, particularly among peer groups.

Congratulations

MALE VOICE: Congratulations on completing the first part of this course on Sex Trafficking and Adolescents: What Adults Need to Know. If you would like a certificate of completion to print, enter your name here as it should appear on your certificate and click the button.

Next Steps

MALE VOICE: Be sure to review the course resources and downloadable documents referenced throughout this course. Click the buttons to access each of these.

In Part Two, we will discuss the impact of sex trafficking on youth and explore ways to incorporate sex trafficking awareness, prevention, and intervention strategies into youth programs.

Click the button to begin Part Two now, or exit the course to complete the second part at a later time.

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