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Addressing a By-Product of the Opioid Addiction Crisis: Commercial Sexual Exploitation

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New England Region*

Your Webinar Host



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About National Library of Medicine (NLM)



Physical library is Bethesda, MD part of the NIH campus.

Largest biomedical library in the world

One of the federal government's largest providers of digital content

The library is open to everyone

NLMs mission

*Advance the progress of medicine and improve public health
by making biomedical information accessible to everyone.*

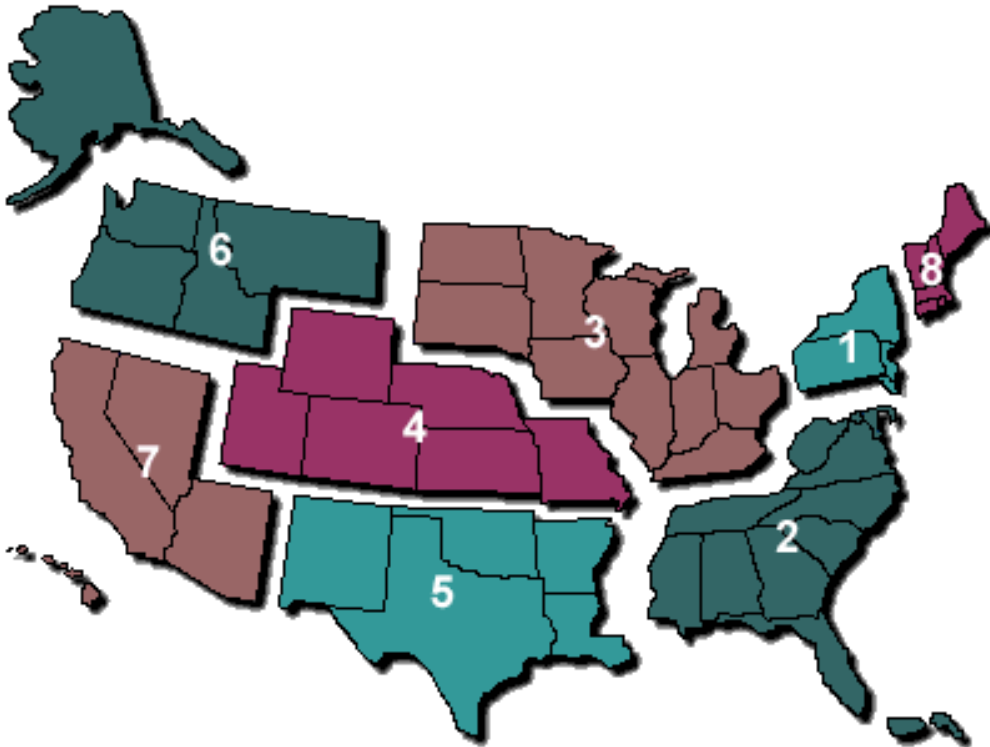


U.S. National Library of Medicine

National Network of Libraries of Medicine
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NLM Carries Out its Mission Through National Network of Libraries of Medicine (NNLM)

<https://nnlm.gov/>



- Nationwide network of health sciences libraries, public libraries & information centers
- Each region has a partnership with a regional medical library
- Outreach provided through
 - Free access to online health & medical resources
 - Free Training & Professional Development
 - Grant funding opportunities available for your community



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Substance Use Disorder Resources from the National Library of Medicine (NLM)

- Opiate Addiction and Treatment Information portal <https://sis.nlm.nih.gov/enviro/addiction.html>
- Disaster Lit® search of [opioid guidelines, reports, factsheets, etc.](#), including:
 - Fentanyl Safety Recommendations for First Responders
<https://disasterlit.nlm.nih.gov/record/16121>
 - How HIPAA Allows Doctors to Respond to the Opioid Crisis
<https://disasterlit.nlm.nih.gov/record/16093>
 - Preventing Opioid Misuse in the States and Territories: A Public Health Framework for Cross-Sector Leadership <https://disasterlit.nlm.nih.gov/record/15995>
- MedlinePlus Opioid Abuse and Addiction <https://medlineplus.gov/opioidabuseandaddiction.html>
Abuso y adicción de opioides <https://medlineplus.gov/spanish/opioidabuseandaddiction.html>
- HealthReach [low-literacy patient materials about opioids, opioid addiction, and opioid treatment](#)
(includes documents, videos, and audio)

PHPartners Information Access for the Public Health Workforce <https://phpartners.org/>

PHP Partners aggregates public health news, some of it involving substance misuse from a public health point of view,

[http://www.pewtrusts.org/en/multimedia/audio/2017/treating-the-opioid-epidemic.](http://www.pewtrusts.org/en/multimedia/audio/2017/treating-the-opioid-epidemic)

Graphic Medicine Book Club Kit



nnlm.gov/ner/kits

Graphic medicine is the combination of comics and healthcare. Comics help with understanding illness and health.

These kits are available to any organization in New England for free.

How kits work

1. Pick a health comic



Addiction - AIDS - Aging - Cancer - Epilepsy - Grief - LGBTQ - Mental Health - OCD - Veterans

2. You receive a kit in the mail

Kits include:

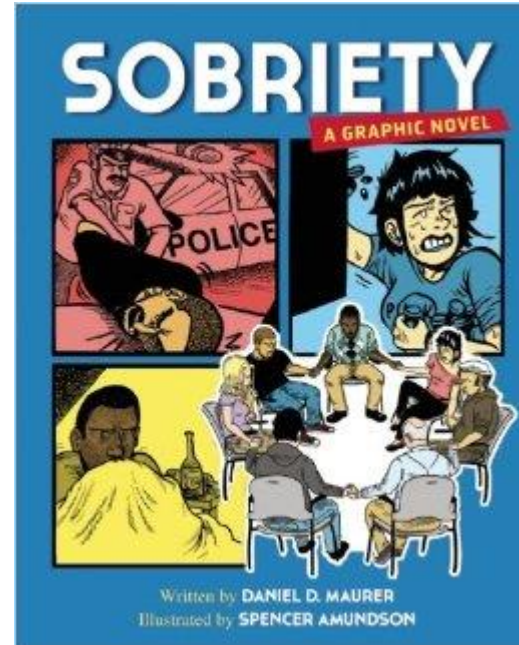
6 Graphic Novels
Discussion guides with questions
Valuable NLM resources on the selected topic



3. Read and learn together!



Offering programming on addiction and recovery? Consider borrowing one of our Graphic Medicine Book Club Kits featuring *Sobriety: A Graphic Novel*!



From the publisher... “Through rich illustration and narrative, *Sobriety: A Graphic Novel* offers an inside look into recovery from the perspectives of five Twelve Step group members, each with a unique set of addictions, philosophies, struggles, and successes while working the Steps.”

To Request a Kit: www.nnlm.gov/ner/kits

For Questions or Further Information, Contact
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Your Webinar Presenters



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Addressing a By-Product of the Opioid Addiction Crisis: Commercial Sexual Exploitation

National Libraries of Medicine Webinar
April 10, 2018

Nicole Bell

Executive Director and Founder of LIFT



Living in Freedom Together

Strong women LIFT each other up

Marianne Sarkis, Ph.D.

Assistant Professor and Coordinator

Henry J. and Erna D. Leir Global and Community Health Program

CLARK
UNIVERSITY



CHALLENGE CONVENTION. CHANGE OUR WORLD.

Objectives

- Learn what human trafficking and commercial sexual exploitation
- Debunk some of the commonly held misconceptions
- Arm attendants with true facts and statistics about prostitution.
- Learn about warning signs and red flags to help identify victims in need of support.
- Do's and don'ts of working with victims and survivors of commercial sexual exploitation
- Equip participants with the tools and resources to assist this marginalized and vulnerable group of individuals

LIVING IN FREEDOM TOGETHER, INC.

MISSION and VISION

MISSION: LIFT is a survivor-led organization which provides resources, advocacy, and support to empower individuals to exit and recover from the impacts of commercial sexual exploitation. LIFT also aims to promote community awareness of commercial sexual exploitation through targeted outreach and education.

VISION: LIFT envisions a community wherein victims, who were for so long shunned, are now embraced with dignity, choices, and inclusion.

Definition of Sexual Exploitation

A practice by which a person achieves sexual gratification, financial gain, or advancement through the abuse or exploitation of a person's sexuality by abrogating that person's right to equality, dignity, autonomy, and physical and mental well-being.

Preying on Vulnerability

“Sexual exploitation preys upon women and children made vulnerable by poverty and economic development policies and practices, refugees and displaced persons; and on women in the migrating process.”

“Globalizing the exploitation of women and children”

Donna M Hughes

Forms of Commercial Sexual Exploitation

- Street prostitution
- Pornography
- Stripping
- Erotic/nude massage
- Escort services
- Phone sex lines
- Private parties
- Gang and organized crime based exploitation
- Familial pimping
- Forms of internet based exploitation

Sex Trafficking

The recruitment, harboring, transportation, provision, or obtaining of a person for a commercial sex act in which a commercial sex act is induced by force, fraud, or coercion or in which the person induced to perform such an act has not reached the age of 18.

Examples of Adult Sexual Exploitation in which do not fit into trafficking definitions

Sexual Exploitation

- No money is changing hands; the “commercial” element does not exist because it is not a money making venture.
- A young woman is drawn into a S&M situation. She is living with a husband and wife and forced into sexually degrading situations. Photos and videos are taken. Substances are used to increase her cooperation.
- A man lets fellow gang bangers “borrow” his girlfriend. She is passed around for sexual favors.

Sexual Exploitation

- No “trafficker” or “pimp” (person who is controlling the victim and benefitting financially)
- A woman is homeless and engages in survival sex: She exchanges sex for money, food, and a place to stay.
- A woman is coerced into having sex with a police officer in order to avoid arrest.
- A woman who is addicted to opiates or heroin has sex with her dealer when she doesn’t have any money and is in withdrawal.

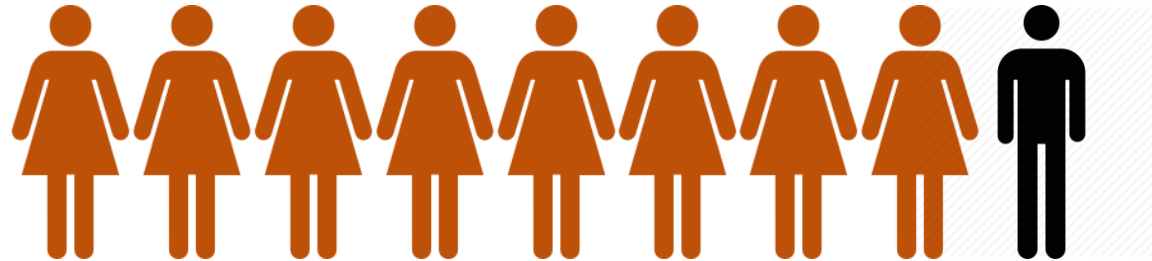
Trafficking in Persons (TIP)

- One of the fastest, and most profitable, industries in the world
- Surpasses gun and drugs trafficking
- Fueled by demand for prostitution and engagement in illicit sex, especially with minors.
- Fueled by supply-demand chain that spans the globe
- Coordinated through a sophisticated cyber network
- Very difficult to expose or disrupt.

By the Numbers

- 4.5 million (22%) in forced sexual exploitation.
- 14,500-17,500 individuals trafficked into the U.S. each year.

99% are women and girls



55% are children



Commercial Sexual Exploitation in the US

- At least 100K to 300K youth are at risk for commercial sexual exploitation annually in the US.

(Estes and Weiner, 2001)

- At least 100K children are used in prostitution every year in the United States.

(The national report on DMST: America's prostituted children, 2010, Shared Hope)

By the Numbers

- 100,000-300,000 underage girls (12-14 years old) are at risk of being sold for sex in the U.S. every year
- Boys and transgender youth enter into prostitution, on average, between the of 11 and 13 years old
- Upwards of 95% of those in prostitution were sexually assaulted as children
- Around 70% of sexually exploited women meet the criteria for post-traumatic stress disorder
- 75% have faced homelessness
- 80% were victims of rape and sexual assault
- 90% of women in prostitution want to leave immediately but feel they have little or no options

By the Numbers, cont.

- On average, a young girl is **sold more than 15 times/day**.
- **One in three homeless children** gets lured into prostitution within the **first 48 hours** of being alone on the streets.
- **18,500 runaways** have been victims of child sex trafficking
 - **86% were in the care of social services** when they ran away (NCEMC)

Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children

- Are under 18 years old
- Walk to school or the store alone
- Own or have access to a computer
- Are attracted to consumer goods
- Desire to develop romantic relationships
- Sometimes feel insecure
- Feel misunderstood
- Fight with their parents
- Sometimes feel that their parents don't care
- Want more independence
- Test boundaries and take risks

Individual Risk factors for CSEC

- Sexual Abuse/Physical Abuse/Neglect
- Runaway/"Throwaway"/Homeless
- Identification as Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and/or Questioning
- Mental Health Issues
- Unaddressed trauma
- Developmental/Learning disabilities

Substance Use Disorder and Prostitution

Seven people accused of forcing addicts into prostitution with Kilby Street gang

Updated Sep 28, 2016; Posted Sep 22, 2016

By [Melissa Hanson](#), mhanson@masslive.com

WORCESTER -- Seven people are now facing charges that they were involved with a Kilby Street gang prostitution ring that preyed on heroin addicted women.

Fabian Beltran, 24, was held on \$50,000 cash bail at his arraignment on Thursday in Worcester Central District Court on Thursday for charges of human trafficking and deriving support from prostitution. A not-guilty plea was entered on his behalf.

http://www.masslive.com/news/worcester/index.ssf/2016/09/seventh_person_accused_of_forc.html



Special Report: Opiate crisis pushes addicts to sex trade

Tech-savvy pimps make life harrowing for victims

Jessica Heslam Monday, March 13, 2017



www.liftworchester.org

http://www.bostonherald.com/news/local_coverage/2017/03/special_report_opiate_crisis_pushes_addicts_to_sex_trade



PHILADELPHIA

Human traffickers used violence, drugs to coerce women into prostitution: AG

One of the women told the police one of the men said his name is "Frank Luchese" and impersonated a mobster to intimidate her and other victims.

By Kimberly M. Aquilina Published : November 29, 2017 | Updated : November 29, 2017



The human trafficking ring was discovered after a woman told police she was a victim during an undercover prostitution sting. Image: U.S. Air Force graphic via Google Commons



“The substances were the easy part. I recovered from Substance use disorder but I am still recovering from the aftermath of prostitution. It takes a lifetime to heal. It affects every aspect of my life from relationships, my marriage, and my work. I am twenty years out and I still am healing.”

-Prostitution Survivor

Impacts of CSE on victims

- Physical Impacts of CSE
 - Continuous physical abuse
 - Rape and gang-rape
 - STI'S
 - HIV and AIDS
 - Pregnancy (wanted and unwanted)
 - Tattoos and/or physical branding
 - Substance Use disorder, cutting, self mutilation
 - Suicide or death
- Emotional and Spiritual Impacts of CSE
 - Anger and rage
 - Deep emotional pain and grieving
 - Feeling of humiliation and shame
 - Stigma of exploitation
 - Self blame and hatred
 - Loss of sexual desire
 - Hopelessness
 - Lack of belief in humanity or a higher power

Statistics from a Survey of Adult Women in the Sex Industry

- 63% of respondents had been raped in prostitution
- 71% had experienced physical assault in prostitution
- 75% were currently or formerly homeless
- 89% stated that they wanted to escape prostitution immediately but lacked the means to do so
- 68% met the criteria for severe PTSD
- 78% of 55 women who sought help from the Council for Prostitution Alternatives in 1991 reported being raped an average of 16 times a year by traffickers, and were raped 33 times a year by sex buyers.

From Childhood Trauma to Prostitution

Stats of Childhood Trauma within Prostitution

- Some studies suggest that upwards of 85% of individuals in Prostitution experienced Sexual Violence as Children
- Average age of entry into prostitution is stated to be 14-16 years old
- Early experimentation with drugs and alcohol lead to substance Use disorder later in life

In Worcester...

- 97% have Substance Use Disorder (SUD)
- Over 65% homeless or no stable housing
- Unmet needs due to unaddressed trauma, shame, and the stigma of being a prostituted person
- Majority of the women do not have a safe place to go post-incarceration, and often return to the streets, leading to dangerous and fatal results.
- 13 women died in last two years from fatal overdoses
- Chronic recidivism – Majority arrested at least once for prostitution-related offenses, 44% were arrested 4 times or more, with one woman arrested 27 times
- Common for women to be re-arrested within days of release. 10% were rearrested within a month of their release from jail, and 3% get re-arrested within a week.

What we have seen in the last 6 months

- 91% of clients had been arrested;
 - of those, 60% had either lost count of the number of times they had been arrested or been arrested 10 or more times
- 58% had overdosed,
 - of those, 75% had overdosed more than once.
- 65% are homeless

Most challenging barriers to exiting

- Substance use disorder (SUD)
- Chronic homelessness
- Inadequate education/job skills
- Lack of positive social support
- Lack of knowledge about available resources
- Former convictions of prostitution and drugs

Lack of trauma-informed and appropriate programs that address all factors simultaneously

From addiction as a moral failing to addiction as a disease

Changing language and moving away from stigmatizing labels

Treatment Effectiveness

- MAT effective in:
 - Treating opioid use disorders
 - Reducing drug-related disease, criminal recidivism, and morbidity and mortality
 - Increasing quality of life (HHS)
- WHY?
 - Long-lasting changes in brain chemistry can cause difficulty with abstaining from opioid use; withdrawal symptoms and cravings can be overwhelming
 - MAT can help reduce withdrawal symptoms and curb opioid cravings that can lead to relapse
 - Long-term MAT has greater than 85% chance of reducing overall mortality among people with opioid use disorders (British Medical Journal, 2010)



Addiction
is not a Choice.

It's a Disease.

#StateWithoutStigMA

The Challenges in Recovery Specific for Survivors


- Survivors feel doubly stigmatized with addiction and experiences in prostitution.
- Treatment facilities are still archaic in the treatment of addiction. Solely based on the twelve steps not recognizing trauma as a driving factor for addiction.
- Facilities either treat one or the other (Trauma OR Addiction)

Challenges in Recovery for Survivors of CSE

- Re-exploitation and further revictimization within the 12 step community.
- Limited if any access to support from other survivors.
- Not addressing the prostitution, or addressing it as an afterthought is a mistake.
- Minimal programming that provides trauma informed care.

“Though their death certificate may read overdose, suicide, or homicide, it should read death by prostitution”

Autumn Burris: Survivors for solutions



Supporting Survivors with Substance Use Disorder

Wrap-around services and coordinated supports for survivors

- Partnering with local substance use facilities
 - Training and dispensing Narcan to High Risk populations
 - Establishing a coordinated support system
 - Training local substance use disorder providers
 - Running support groups and educational groups within treatment facilities
 - Training recovery coaches and community health workers
 - Training exiting survivors to provide additional support for women in treatment
 - Instant access to services and treatment via the drop-in
 - Building relationships and trust with prostituted women
-
- Working towards opening a residential treatment program for survivors

Challenges and Lessons Learned

- Most people relapse multiple times prior to sustained recovery
- Lack of coordination and case management
- Protected Health Information makes it easy to “lose” individuals within the treatment system
- Programs lack the capacity or training to address trauma
- Stigma associated with prostitution makes it difficult to succeed or remain in treatment or connected
- Systemic barriers
- Using jails as treatment facilities
- Lack of coordinated re-entry

What we know about treatment of Survivors and Substance Use Disorder

- Allowing access to counseling for the exploitation and childhood trauma is necessary and paramount to sustained Recovery.
- The empowerment based model is most effective for survivors of commercial sexual exploitation.
- Treatment facilities need to be Partnering with Survivor led organizations for additional support and education.

Understanding support needs, relapse, and treatments to ensure sustainable recovery

- Access to peer support services, especially those with lived experience, is critical for increasing positive outcomes.
- Most individuals with substance use disorder will relapse with drugs and alcohol many times before finding sustained recovery.
- If Survivor specific treatment is not available, support groups and education around exploitation is beneficial.



Working with Victims of CSE

Identifying Victims of CSE/Red flags

- Personal information-such as age, name, and/or date of birth-might change with each telling of his or her story, or the information given might contradict itself.
- Has no identification or is not in control of their identification documents.
- Physical and sexual violence are everyday reality of many sexually exploited persons and may leave visible signs of abuse, such as: unexplained bruises, black eyes, cuts, or marks.
- Exhibit behaviors including fear, anxiety, depression, submission, tension, and/or nervousness.
- Exhibit hypervigilance or paranoid behavior.
- Sexually exploited victims often express interest in, or are in relationships with significantly older men.
- Not in control of their own money
- Evidence in controlling or dominating relationships or excessive concern about displeasing partner.

Identifying Victims of CSE/Red flags

- Wearing sexually provocative clothing can be an indicator of sexual exploitation. It should be noted that in and of itself is not an indicator.
- Unable to make eye contact.
- A tattoo that they may be reluctant to explain may be the result of of tattooing or branding by a pimp.
- Homeless, runaway, group home children.
- Doctors and nurses can consider frequent or multiple sexually transmitted infections, pregnancies or abortions a warning sign.

Engaging Victims of CSE

Do's

- Do meet a sexually exploited victim where they are, on their terms, and try to meet the needs they present.
- Do recognize the various symptoms of trauma exhibited and coping mechanisms used by CSE individuals that may not be those ones typically associated with victims
- Do be nonjudgmental when listening to victims
- Do keep them comfortable and talking
- Do improve a systematic response to CSE victims by creating inter-agency relationships to comprehensively meet victims' needs.

Don'ts

- Don't expect a victim to recognize their situation as exploitive, or to present themselves as a victim in need of immediate service or intervention.
- Don't use strategies that switch between treating individual as a victim and as offender
- Don't react verbally or physically in a way that communicated disgust or disdain.
- Don't dispute facts or comment on their motivation. This is likely to stop the flow of information.
- Don't assume the sole responsibility for meeting the myriad of needs of victims of CSE

Working with victims of CSE: Key points

- Be aware of your actions when working with victims of CSE
- Set a non judgemental and empathetic tone.
- Treat the individuals as a victim of trauma and abuse.

Resources & Supports

National Human Trafficking hotline 1-888-373-7888

Pathways for Change hotline 800-870-5905

Living In Freedom Together (LIFT) 508-827-1124

National Center for missing and exploited children 1-800-THE-LOST

Ascentria Healthcare 774-243-7900

Department of children and families (DCF) 1-800-792-5200





Questions?

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Upcoming Webinars

EMPOWER: A Community-Based Approach to Improve Care for Women and Newborns Affected by Perinatal Substance Use Disorder

May 15, 2018 1-2PM

*Linda Jablonski, RNC, MSN Assistant Nurse Manager, The Birthplace; Baystate Franklin Medical Center,
Co-Chair Franklin County Perinatal Support Coalition*

***Registration link <http://bit.ly/2sGfcdt>**

Just Talk About It: Using Mental Health Education to Prevent & Treat Substance Use Disorder

June 12, 2018 3PM-4PM

Carl Antisell, Speaker/Director of Strategic Communications and Information Services for Minding Your Mind

***Registration link <http://bit.ly/2HCKCVp>**



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EVALUATION LINK

<https://www.surveygizmo.com/s3/3529624/98ddc25b01df>

Evaluation Code – subuse2

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3. Click My Learning on the blue bar near the top of the MEDLIB-ED home page.
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