



Trafficking & Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Minors

A Bibliography

January 2024

**Championing and Strengthening the
Global Response to Child Abuse**

nationalcac.org | 256-533-KIDS(5437) | 210 Pratt Avenue NE, Huntsville, AL 35801

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Preferred citation: National Children's Advocacy Center. (2024). Trafficking & Commercial Exploitation of Minors : A Bibliography. Huntsville, AL: Author.

This project was supported by a grant awarded by the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, Office of Justice Programs, U.S. Department of Justice. Points of view or opinions in this document are those of the author and do not necessarily represent the official position or policies of the U.S. Department of Justice.

Scope

This bibliography provides research literature covering wide variety of issues related to trafficking and sexual exploitation of minors including law, prevention, and intervention.

Organization

Publications include articles, book chapters, reports, and research briefs and are listed in date descending order. Links are provided to full text publications when possible. However, this collection may not be complete. More information can be obtained in the Child Abuse Library Online.

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A Bibliography

Ramirez, J., Gordon, M., Reissinger, M., Shah, A., Coverdale, J., & Nguyen, P. T. (2024). The importance of maintaining medical professionalism while experiencing vicarious trauma when working with human trafficking victims. *Traumatology*, 30(1), 97-102. DOI:10.1037/trm0000248

Providing health care services to human trafficking victims may negatively impact the psychological wellness and decision-making process of health care providers, especially mental health providers. This article highlights John Gregory's concept of medical professionalism and discusses how the fundamental virtues, integrity, compassion, self-sacrifice, and self-effacement can guide health care providers in managing their work with trafficked patients. Recommendations are provided to health care providers, and the leadership of their institutions, to develop and support a professional culture of prevention and intervention for health care providers who experience psychological adversities related to their work with victims of human trafficking.

Baird, K., & Connolly, J. (2023). [Recruitment and entrapment pathways of minors into sex trafficking in Canada and the United States: A systematic review](#). *Trauma, Violence, & Abuse*, 24(1), 189-202. DOI:10.1177/15248380211025241

The domestic sex trafficking of minors is occurring across Canada and the United States. Understanding the routes into sex trafficking, including the way traffickers target, recruit and enmesh youth in the sex trade is invaluable information for service providers and law makers developing prevention and intervention initiatives. This review synthesized research on the exploitation processes and tactics employed by traffickers in the sex trafficking of domestic minors in Canada and the US. The authors comprehensively and systematically searched five electronic databases and obtained additional publications and grey literature through a backward search of the references cited in articles reviewed

for inclusion. Inclusionary criteria included: Studies published in the English language between January 1990 and June 2020 containing original research with quantitative or qualitative data on the recruitment or pathways into sex trafficking for minors trafficked within the US and Canada. The search yielded 23 eligible studies. The synthesis of the studies in the review converged on the notion of sexual exploitation occurring on a continuum comprising of three components; the recruitment context, entrapment strategies utilized by traffickers, and enmeshment tactics used to prolong exploitation. Findings highlight the significant physical, psychological and emotional hurdles faced by youth victims of sex trafficking and point to the importance of comprehensive and holistic approaches to prevention and intervention practices.

Branscum, C., Cain, C. M., & Fallik, S. W. (2023). Exploring the nature of anti-trafficking laws: A content analysis of state statutes. *Journal of Human Trafficking*, 9(3), 348-362. DOI:10.1080/23322705.2021.1917213

The Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 set the tone for anti-trafficking legislation nationwide. Though all states criminalized human trafficking by 2013, policy adoption has not been widespread. This matters because criminal justice actors are constrained in their ability to respond to human trafficking when policies are limited. Furthermore, variation among state laws may displace crime and inhibit interagency coordination. The extent that states have adopted anti-trafficking legislation has not been examined. The current study analyzes 982 state anti-trafficking statutes nationwide through a content analysis ($M = 19.64$). Three themes were identified from state legislative approaches: 1. conceptualizing human trafficking, 2. offense severity and penalties, and 3. accountability for other parties. Overall, the nation's anti-trafficking laws are best characterized as a patchwork of statutes. While several states made great strides to further existing legislative recommendations with innovative laws, implementation was inconsistent state-by-state. Implications for future research and legal reform are discussed.

Cordisco Tsai, L., Lim, V., Hentschel, E., & Nhanh, C. (2023). Strengthening services for survivors of human trafficking: Recommendations from survivors in Cambodia. *Journal of Human Trafficking*, 9(3), 311–327. DOI:10.1080/23322705.2021.1899526

Survivors' voices have historically been excluded from research on human trafficking. Although research on the importance of survivor voice is growing, minimal research has explored survivors' own perspectives on their experiences in anti-human trafficking programming and their recommendations for strengthening services. In this manuscript, we share recommendations from survivors of human trafficking and sexual exploitation for improving direct services in the anti-human trafficking movement. We analyzed data from the Butterfly Longitudinal Research (BLR) study, a 10-year longitudinal study committed to centering the voices and exploring the lives and trajectories of survivors of human trafficking and sexual exploitation in Cambodia. We analyzed 362 interviews and narrative summaries of interviews conducted from 2011 to 2016 (n = 111). This manuscript presents a series of recommendations from BLR participants which have been categorized into four thematic areas: promote survivor agency and adopt an empowerment-based approach, ensure shelters are responsive to the needs and priorities of survivors, foster healthy engagement between staff and survivors, and strengthen re/integration support and community-based services. Participants' recommendations are consistent with human rights-based and trauma-informed approaches, while simultaneously raising new considerations. This paper provides a novel contribution to the sector and reinforces the heightened call to genuinely and diligently include survivor voices in all aspects of anti-human trafficking organizations' decision-making processes.

Gonzalez-Pons, K. M. (2023). "We can work across agencies to build a powerful, statewide response": Considering the public health department's response to domestic minor sex trafficking. *Journal of Human Trafficking*, 9(4), 435-445. DOI:10.1080/23322705.2021.1951535

This study explored public health department employees' perceptions of, and experiences with, identifying and serving victims of domestic minor sex trafficking (DMST). A sample of 47 health department employees completed a mixed method web-based survey about victim identification, DMST myths, and assets and barriers to serving DMST victims. Less than one-third of participants reported that their organizations had a screening tool to identify victims, and another third were unsure if their organization did or did not. Few participants were confident that they could identify DMST victims. Several barriers to serving DMST victims exist, including issues in identification, resource shortages, and a failure to acknowledge the systemic issues that contribute to the complex nature of DMST. Participants identified strong collaborations with anti-trafficking organizations and state legislation that supported Safe Harbor policies as assets in their anti-trafficking work. The present study supports several UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDG 5.2 and SDG 8.7). When public health department employees are educated about domestic minor sex trafficking, have the tools to identify victims, and the resources to serve them, they can more effectively limit further victimization and ultimately work toward preventing minors from being exploited in the first place.

Helpingstine, C., Kenny, M. C., & Canfield, B. (2023). [Survivors of commercial sexual exploitation: Experiences working in service organizations](#). *Journal of Human Trafficking*, 9(4), 532-545. DOI:10.1080/23322705.2021.1946334

Survivors of commercial sexual exploitation (CSE) need multiple services to reintegrate into society including vocational assistance and career planning. Survivor mentors are being employed in agencies to connect with and assist victims of CSE. However, little is known about their work experiences in these agencies. Sixteen adult survivors of CSE who

are presently working in agencies serving youth victims of CSE participated in this exploratory study. In an online survey, they reported on their experiences working in agencies, and on their satisfaction with their positions, salaries, and roles. Results revealed that generally, survivors were satisfied with their employment and benefits provided to them but not their salaries. They had concerns about the need to be a “model” survivor and at times being asked to share their story without permission. Over a third of survivors felt “used” as a survivor spokesperson for the agency in fundraising or other events without consent. Almost all survivors were engaged in their own counseling but support by their agencies for counseling varied. These results can be used to advise agencies that seek to be survivor-informed in how to provide a supportive and trauma-informed environment, to promote better outcomes for their employees who are survivors of human trafficking.

Hogan, K. A., & Roe-Sepowitz, D. (2023). [LGBTQ+ homeless young adults and sex trafficking vulnerability](#). *Journal of Human Trafficking*, 9(1), 63–78.
DOI:10.1080/23322705.2020.1841985

The sexual exploitation of LGBTQ+ young adults and how to best serve this population is an emerging field of knowledge. In July 2015, a cross-sectional purposeful sampling design was used to recruit 215 homeless young adults (ages 18–25) from greater Phoenix and Tucson, Arizona, to complete the paper and pencil Youth Experiences Survey. Over a third of the sample reported having been sex trafficked, and of those, over half were LGBTQ+. Further, amongst the sample, the odds of being LGBTQ+ and sex trafficked were two times higher compared to being heterosexual. Sex trafficked LGBTQ+ homeless young adults were found to be significantly more likely to report exchanging sex for money and were also found to have reported higher rates of challenging life experiences, including suicide attempts, drug use, risk-taking, and being raped between ages 13–17 compared to sex trafficked heterosexual homeless young adults. The implications of these findings

are discussed, and future research on sex trafficked LGBTQ+ homeless individuals is recommended.

Kim, B.-K. E., Dierkhising, C. B., De Leon, J., Sandoval, J., Brissett, A., & Bounds, D. (2023). Evaluation of services for the commercial sexual exploitation of children and youth: A scoping review. *Trauma, Violence & Abuse, 24*(5), 3236–3250. DOI:10.1177/15248380221126185

Commercial sexual exploitation (CSE) of youth is a public health issue with multiple negative consequences. Despite the complexities and comprehensiveness of service needs for youth experiencing CSE, the evidence base of effective services and programs lags far behind. This scoping review seeks to identify the most up-to-date evidence on programs for youth experiencing CSE that have been evaluated and found to be effective. We conducted a scoping review of current literature, including peer-reviewed articles as well as gray literature using a scientific approach to identify programs and service provisions specifically focused on youth experiencing CSE and examine empirical evidence for their effectiveness. A comprehensive search of five databases was completed in September 2020 then updated in April 2021 to identify relevant publications from January 1, 2000 to present. Additional program mining was conducted on evaluations of programs mentioned in the search results. A total of 3,597 citations from the database searches were screened for title and abstract and 190 citations were included for full-text review. The search process yielded 11 eligible articles with one additional report found through program mining. Identified programs targeted youth, providers, and consumers of CSE. While scientific rigor was not high, all included studies reported positive outcomes. Evidence base for effective services and programs is sparse. While more programs and services are being developed, studies should use rigorous research designs to test the effectiveness of these programs and services. Implications for practice and policy are discussed.

Laird, J. J., Klettke, B., Hall, K., & Hallford, D. (2023). Toward a global definition and understanding of child sexual exploitation: The development of a conceptual model. *Trauma, Violence, & Abuse*, 24(4), 2243–2264.
DOI:10.1177/15248380221090980

Child sexual exploitation (CSE) is a serious and persistent global issue affecting up to 5% of the child and youth population worldwide; yet there is no universally accepted definition. To develop a theoretically robust definition of CSE, this review systematically synthesized literature examining CSE definitions aiming to develop a conceptual model and typology. Electronic databases were searched to February 2021, yielding 384 nonduplicative records. Inclusion criteria were peer-reviewed and grey literature investigations of sexual exploitation, with a mean sample age of 18 years or younger, available in the English language. Literature review and data extraction followed the Preferred Reporting Items for Systematic Reviews and Meta-analyses (PRISMA) guidelines. Sixty-six studies met final inclusion criteria. Two independent reviewers extracted relevant data and used an epistemological approach to thematically analyse meaning and patterns across CSE definitions. Key findings demonstrate that CSE nomenclature is widely inconsistent, and despite growing awareness of this severe form of abuse, language continues to perpetuate stigma and criminalisation, utilising terms such as ‘adolescent or child prostitute’. Our findings propose a scientifically and trauma-informed definition and conceptualisation of CSE, based on the following four-dimensional components: (1) A child/young person; (2) sexual acts; (3) abuse; and (4) exploitation (abuse + exchange). In this systematic review, a unified definition and conceptual model aims to advance knowledge and understanding of CSE, contributing to the progression of social norms which embrace nuances of trauma-informed practice and support for the identification and recovery of children, young people and families affected by sexual exploitation.

McDonald, K. P., Fisher, R., & Connolly, J. (2023). Building a specialized model of care for youth involved in sex trafficking in child welfare: A systematic review and interviews with experts-by-experience. *Child Abuse & Neglect*, 135, 105987. DOI:10.1016/j.chiabu.2022.105987

Background: Sex trafficking of youth involved in the child welfare system is a critical global issue; however, there are limited counter-trafficking programs designed to specifically meet the needs of this population. Objective: The present study aimed to identify components essential to building a model of care for youth involved in sex trafficking in child welfare. The specific goals of this investigation were to: 1) systematically review the literature for programs implemented with child-welfare involved youth at risk of or involved in sex trafficking, and 2) examine convergent and divergent evidence through interviews with experts-by-experience (i.e., survivors and child welfare personnel). Participants and setting: 13 child welfare workers and 6 survivors of sex trafficking. Methods: Systematic review identified articles that included programs and interventions for youth involved in sex trafficking in child welfare. Interviews with experts-by-experience were analysed through reflexive thematic analysis. Content analysis was used to examine convergent and divergent evidence between the two noted methods of inquiry (systematic review and interviews with experts). Results: Findings from the systematic review support a model of care comprised of two overarching components: 1) wraparound supports, and 2) trained caregivers and supported foster homes. Thematic analyses also revealed that experts thought that an appropriate model of care would require child welfare agencies to take a preventative stance, such as conducting early coordinated risk assessments on all youth in care. Convergent with the literature, experts noted the need for enhanced wraparound supports and specific training for caregivers and service providers. Conclusions: Components essential to building a model of care for youth at risk of or involved in sex trafficking in child welfare were extracted and discussed based on the evidence gathered.

Miller, Q. C., Todorovic, K., Perez, C. O., Capparelli, A. L., & London, K. (2023). Laypeople's knowledge and misconceptions of sex trafficking influenced by training formats. *Journal of Human Trafficking*, 9(1), 94-118. DOI:10.1080/23322705.2020.1865767

Despite the global epidemic of sex trafficking, laypeople and professionals possess little knowledge about trafficking. Lack of awareness engenders failed victim identification, victim-blaming attitudes, re-victimization, and dissipated justice system resources. To address this paucity of awareness, the current research evaluated the efficacy of brief online sex trafficking trainings. Participants were 268 adults recruited nationwide in the United States. Participants were randomly assigned to one of three sex trafficking trainings (facts-only, stories-only, combination). Participants completed pre-training measures of myth endorsement, perceived knowledge, and actual knowledge of sex trafficking. Immediately post-training, participants completed measures of perceived knowledge, actual knowledge, and training satisfaction. Following a one-week delay, participants again responded to measures of myth acceptance, perceived knowledge, and actual knowledge. Regardless of training condition, participants showed improvements in "myth endorsement reduction", perceived knowledge, and actual knowledge post-training. Compared to the stories-only and combination training conditions, participants in the facts-only condition expressed the greatest reduction in myth endorsement, greatest perceived knowledge, greatest actual knowledge, and greatest training satisfaction. Findings indicate promise for a brief online sex trafficking training using the facts-only format. We discuss research for further investigation of sex trafficking trainings and policy and practice recommendation for professionals.

Moss, C., Smith, S. J., Kim, K., Hua, N., Noronha, N., Kavenagh, M., & Wekerle, C. (2023). A global systematic scoping review of literature on the sexual exploitation of boys. *Child Abuse & Neglect*, 142, 106244. DOI:10.1016/j.chiabu.2023.106244

Background: Sexual exploitation of children (SEC) is a widespread crime which impacts the child victim across developmental, health and well-being domains. As victims, boys

have received much less clinical and research attention. While context-specific factors likely shape the SEC risk, under-recognized gender norms can deny boys' vulnerability. Professional failures to recognize and respond adequately to boys' sexual exploitation may prevent access to support. Objective: This systematic scoping review updates and broadens a previous review of literature addressing prevalence, victim/offender/facilitator characteristics, control mechanisms, as well as the health correlates and outcomes regarding sexual exploitation of boys. This review included international peer-reviewed and gray literature from 38 countries in 14 languages. Participants and setting: Studies from the years 2000 to 2022 that included samples of boys under age 18, or sex-disaggregated data for children under 18, were included. Case studies, systematic reviews, and those reporting on retrospective experiences by adults over 18 were excluded. A total of 254,744 boys were represented across 81 studies. Methods: A systematic scoping review considered qualitative and quantitative peer-reviewed publications from eight, English-language databases. English and non-English non-peer reviewed publications ('gray literature') was identified by both ECPAT International's global network of member organizations and citation chaining. Results: Overall, 81 peer-reviewed (n = 51) and gray literature (n = 30) documents from 38 countries were included. In total, 254,744 youth participated in peer-reviewed studies (N = 217,726) and gray literature (N = 37,018). General prevalence of sexual exploitation of boys was reported at up to 5 %, with higher rates noted in specifically vulnerable sub-populations (e.g., 10 %, trans youth; 26 %, street-connected youth). The literature indicates that sexual exploitation of boys is reported as occurring primarily between 12 and 18 years old. Multi-level factors are linked to SEC, including individual (e.g., disability status), relationship (e.g., child maltreatment, dating violence), community (e.g., community violence), and societal domains (e.g., discriminatory beliefs). SEC victimization is linked with youth mental and physical health concerns, particularly sexual health. Post-traumatic stress symptomatology or disorder was rarely evaluated. Evidence-based treatments were not available, which may be related to a lack of gender-based

theoretical models for understanding SEC specifically. Conclusion: The sexual exploitation of boys is a prevalent public health, child rights, and clinical issue. All young people experiencing sexual exploitation face sex- and gender-specific challenges, and this remains the case for boys with indications including family rejection, implicit community tolerance for abuse to service accessibility barriers. Actioning our duty to care for all children requires gender- and trauma-informed lenses. Ongoing surveillance of all forms of violence against children, with gender disaggregation, is essential for practice and policy advancement.

O'Brien, J. E., Jensen, T., Mitchell, K., & White, K. (2023). [Commercial sexual exploitation outcomes in a community sample of youth](#). *Journal of Adolescent Health*, 72(1), 51-58. DOI:10.1016/j.jadohealth.2022.08.028

Purpose: Researchers have suggested that victims of commercial sexual exploitation (CSE) have deleterious long-term outcomes; however, longitudinal trajectories of youth who experience CSE have not been explored. For the current study, the National Longitudinal Study of Adolescent to Adults Health (Add Health) survey was used to compare trajectories of youth who had experienced CSE with their nonexploited peers. Methods: Propensity score matching was used to match youth at waves 1 and 2 who experienced CSE and who did not experience CSE but had similar risk profiles. Youth with low-risk profiles were also matched. Our sample included 430 youth who experienced CSE, a matched sample of 430 youth who did not experience CSE but had a similar risk profile, and a sample of youth who did not experience CSE and had low-risk profiles (n = 782). Outcomes of interest included psychological, behavioral, physical, and interpersonal well-being. Results: Youth who had experienced CSE had higher levels of injection drug use, more police stops, more emergency room visits, and lower relationship satisfaction than their nonexploited peers. Well-being for individuals who experienced CSE as youth changed some over time, but those changes were comparable to the

changes experienced by individuals of similar risk who did not experience CSE. Well-being measures for low-risk youth were universally higher compared to high-risk youth, regardless of CSE. Discussion: Youth receiving drug treatment, experiencing delinquency, or being seen in emergency medical settings may benefit from CSE screening, so that victims can be identified and provided immediate and comprehensive services.

Pacheco, E. L. M., Buenaventura, A. E., & Miles, G. M. (2023). "She was willing to send me there": Intrafamilial child sexual abuse, exploitation and trafficking of boys. *Child Abuse & Neglect*, 142, 105849. DOI:10.1016/j.chiabu.2022.105849

Background: Boys subject to intrafamilial child sexual exploitation and abuse (CSEA) – in particular, cases which begin as incest and later evolve into child trafficking for sexual exploitation – face many barriers in disclosing their exploitation, often leaving victims and survivors feeling isolated from society and dismissed or mishandled by service providers such as law enforcement officers, child protection specialists, medical staff and mental health professionals. Objective: This study explores the unique characteristics of intrafamilial CSEA through the sex trafficking of boys, and the barriers to disclosure and recovery experienced by male victims and survivors. Participants and setting: Ten adult male survivors of intrafamilial child trafficking for sexual exploitation were interviewed multiple times to gain a deeper understanding of intrafamilial CSEA and how it compares and contrasts with non-familial CSEA. Participants in this study primarily came from North America. Methodology: Multiple semi-structured online interviews were conducted with these 10 adult male survivors because they experienced 1) intrafamilial CSEA and 2) being trafficked by their families to be sexually exploited by non-familial perpetrators. The participants were then asked to compare and contrast intrafamilial and non-familial CSEA. The research team employed a descriptive phenomenological approach and interview transcripts were coded, analyzed, and compared to identify patterns of non-verbal CSEA indicators and thematic narratives. The study also explored the internal and

external barriers to disclosure reported by participants. Trauma-informed, person-centered practices were used throughout the entirety of the study to minimize harm to participants. The research team employed a co-productive approach using participants' initial interviews and feedback to formulate new questions for later rounds of interviews and by having the participants confirm the accuracy of their respective quotes and case summaries.

Results and discussion: This study highlights several CSEA modalities, such as "boy-swap" events and local/national/transnational trafficking rings engaged in CSEA of boys. It also discusses how survivors' experiences differed between intrafamilial and non-familial CSEA and trafficking, and how familial settings may facilitate concealment of CSEA. Participants described various modus operandi used by abusers, traffickers, and buyers of all genders. While all 10 intrafamilial CSEA cases included male perpetrators, female perpetrators were also present in nine of them. In addition, participants identified various psychological and physiological CSEA and trafficking indicators that evidenced their victimization during their childhood years. All 10 survivors reported long-term health consequences into adulthood and scored highly on Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) questionnaires.

Recommendations and conclusion: Findings underscore the importance of trauma-informed practices for identifying, liberating, and rehabilitating victims and survivors. Participants reported receiving more effective assistance from service providers that exhibited trauma-informed practices. Traditional gender stereotypes may hinder the ability of service providers to recognize and provide support to boys victimized and trafficked by their families for CSEA. Consequently, service providers may stand to benefit from training on 1) trauma-informed, person-centered practices and 2) conscious and unconscious biases, particularly those related to gender. Survivors in recovery require expanded support services, such as the provision of safe housing, online/in-person support communities, and professional/life skill training. Co-productive research methods that integrate the views and experiences of CSEA and trafficking survivors are also recommended.

Rizo, C. F., Chesworth, B. R., Franchino-Olsen, H., Klein, L., Villodas, M. L., Martin, S. L., & Macy, R. J. (2023). The state of programs for educating youth about sex trafficking in the United States: A nationwide scoping scan survey. *Journal of Human Trafficking*, 9(4), 513–531. DOI:10.1080/23322705.2021.1943944

Growing interest in preventing and addressing sex trafficking has led to an increase in the development and implementation of sex trafficking educational programming for youth. We conducted a nationwide scoping scan survey of U.S. programs focused on educating youth about sex trafficking to learn more about existing programs. Staff at 37 programs completed the survey and provided information on program development, content, structure, delivery, and evaluation. The majority of programs included youth and survivors in program development. Programs aimed to prevent and increase awareness of sex trafficking with trauma-informed content focused on trafficking dynamics, grooming, warning signs, and actions to take if trafficking is suspected. Slightly over half of the programs also addressed labor trafficking and other forms of violence. Programs targeted youth and teachers, but varied in terms of delivery setting, format, and duration. About two thirds of the programs had undergone some form of evaluation, most by program developers, implementers, or staff. Study findings highlight the current landscape of sex trafficking education programming in the U.S. Recommendations are provided for advancing practice and research, including determining the most efficacious program content and delivery. Empowering youth through education and prevention are key steps to creating safe and inclusive communities.

Tueller, S. J., Gibbs, D. A., & Kluckman, M. N. (2023). Estimating unidentified sex trafficking in the child welfare population. *Journal of Human Trafficking*, 9(2), 181–193. DOI:10.1080/23322705.2020.1870093

Sex trafficking involving children is a human rights issue of growing concern, with immediate and lasting impacts on victims. Although victimization is consistently associated with prior maltreatment and foster care placements, reliable estimates of

minor sex trafficking prevalence do not exist. In a statewide child welfare database of all children with maltreatment allegations between 2011 and 2016, 3,420 children were investigated for sex trafficking allegations (1.15% of 296,167 children with investigated maltreatment). We used two independent methods to estimate prevalence. A capture-recapture model estimated 3.3% of this population experienced sex trafficking victimization, and due to positive contagion this model is expected to underestimate prevalence. Mixture models predicted sex trafficking victimization for 17.16% of the children, and due to limitations of the data this model is expected to over-estimate prevalence. Findings suggest the prevalence rate of sex trafficking is between 2.9 and 14.9 times the observed rate, even within the state child welfare system that investigates more trafficking allegations than any other. Increasingly sophisticated modeling methods require concurrent efforts to improve identification of sex trafficking within the systems where victims are most likely to be encountered.

van der Vink, G. E., Carlson, K. N., Park, J., Szeto, S. H., Zhang, X., Jackson, M. E., & Phillips, E. (2023). Empirical analysis of the US State Department's Annual Trafficking in Persons Report—Insights for policy-makers. *Journal of Human Trafficking*, 9(2), 148–167. DOI:10.1080/23322705.2021.1897759

The State Department's annual Trafficking in Persons (TIP) Report is the U.S. Government's principal diplomatic tool to engage foreign governments on human trafficking. Each year, the report evaluates efforts to counter human trafficking, assigning each country to a tier level. We evaluate the relative role of various factors predictive of tier-level assignments, including (a) legislated changes to the ranking system, (b) party to the Palermo Protocol, (c) reported numbers of convictions, prosecutions, and identified victims, (d) independent estimates of prevalence, and (e) sample indicators of governance and economic development. We use singular-value decomposition to identify the relative influence among multiple inter-related factors across a matrix of tier rankings for twelve years and 189 nations. Our analysis indicates that investments in democratic institutions

and individual rights may be significantly more influential than law enforcement, and the traditional economic theory for TIP vulnerability may be an oversimplification. Most significantly, the large number of attributes with small but statistically significant correlations with TIP tier levels confirms that TIP has many causal relationships. We affirm the need for Countering TIP (CTIP) strategies to apply an ecosystem approach with geographically targeted interventions consistent with Situational Crime Prevention.

Chu, K., & Billings, J. (2022). Mental health experiences of sex trafficking victims in Western countries: A qualitative study. *Journal of Human Trafficking*, 8(4), 367-389. DOI:10.1080/23322705.2020.1825897

In recent years, human trafficking has received increasing public awareness and media attention, and sex trafficking in particular has become a prevailing human rights issue on a global scale. Despite growing scientific literature in the field, there remains a limited number of international qualitative studies investigating victims' needs. This study aims to explore the experiences of people who have been sex trafficked in a Western country and how this impacted their mental health, as described in online first-person accounts. First-person online narratives of sex trafficking victims (n = 30) were retrieved from a systematic online search. A thematic analysis identified overarching themes, with the most prominent being 1) preexisting vulnerabilities, 2) psychological mechanisms involved in trafficking (i.e. deception, manipulation), and 3) barriers to recovery. The results showed how preexisting vulnerabilities can impact victims' susceptibility to trafficking and how psychological control tactics utilized in the trafficking process maintain victims' vulnerability. The results of this thematic analysis provide insight into the diverse set of mental, social, and legal needs that trafficking victims face and may inform potential post-trafficking interventions to meet these needs and prevention efforts to reduce vulnerability to trafficking. Further implications and methodological considerations are discussed in full.

DiRienzo, C. E. (2022). Human trafficking: What the new IOM Dataset reveals. *Journal of Human Trafficking*, 8(3), 294–308. DOI:10.1080/23322705.2020.1808383

In 2017, the International Organization for Migration (IOM) released its global, de-identified database of human trafficking victims, the largest database of its kind, containing over 50,000 individual cases from 2002 to 2018. This study analyzes this new database with two objectives. First, it provides an overview and descriptive statistics of the entire database, including a year by year analysis. Acknowledging that at most 17 annual data points exist for any one variable, empirical analyzes are not used; rather the focus is on general patterns in the data. These general patterns are described and hypothesized explanations for these patterns are offered. Second, given that Polaris is the sole data source for human trafficking in the United States, a year by year breakdown of the United States' data is also included. This analysis is used to assess the types of trafficking and the socio-demographics of victims who are more likely to be identified and reported as human trafficking victims within the United States. This study compares, both globally and within the United States, the frequency of the socio-demographics of the victims and types of exploitation that are identified against estimated actual prevalence rates and relates these findings to media messaging and foci of anti-trafficking campaigns.

Franchino-Olsen, H., Chesworth, B. R., Boyle, C., Rizo, C. F., Martin, S. L., Jordan, B., Macy, R. J., & Stevens, L. (2022). [The prevalence of sex trafficking of children and adolescents in the United States: A scoping review](#). *Trauma, Violence, & Abuse*, 23(1), 182–195. DOI:10.1177/1524838020933873

This scoping review investigated research regarding the magnitude of minor sex trafficking (domestic minor sex trafficking and/or commercial sexual exploitation of children) in the United States, summarizing estimates, methodologies, and strengths and weaknesses of the studies. Using Preferred Reporting Items for Systematic Reviews and Meta-Analyses (PRISMA) guidelines, peer-reviewed articles and the gray literature were accessed via databases searches, reference harvesting, and expert advice. Articles were

included if they provided a count or prevalence proportion estimate of trafficked or at-risk minors across or within a region of the United States. Six empirical studies, published from 1999 to 2017, were included in the review. Included studies produced count estimates (n = 3) or prevalence proportion estimates (n = 3) for youth at risk of minor sex trafficking (n = 2) or reporting victimization (n = 5). Studies examined sex trafficking risk and victimization in different geographical areas, including across the United States (n = 2), in New York City (n = 1), and in Ohio (n = 1). Further, several studies focused on particular populations, such as street and shelter youths (n = 1) and adjudicated males (n = 1). Sampling methodologies of reviewed estimates included traditional random sampling (n = 1), nationally representative sampling (n = 2), convenience sampling (n = 1), respondent-driven sampling (n = 1), purposive sampling (n = 1), and use of census data (n = 2). Little research has estimated the prevalence of minor sex trafficking in the United States. The existing studies examine different areas and populations and use different categories to estimate the problem. The estimates reviewed here should be cited cautiously. Future research is needed on this important topic, including methodologies to produce more representative estimates of this hard-to-reach population.

Knight, L., Xin, Y., & Mengo, C. (2022). [A scoping review of resilience in survivors of human trafficking](#). *Trauma, Violence, & Abuse*, 23(4), 1048-1062.
DOI:10.1177/1524838020985561

Resilience is critical among survivors of trafficking as they are mostly vulnerable populations who face multiple adversities before, during, and after trafficking. However, resilience in survivors of trafficking is understudied. This scoping review aims to clarify the current state of knowledge, focusing on definitions of resilience, how resilience has been studied, and factors associated with resilience among survivors. Five databases were searched using key words related to trafficking and resilience. Studies were included if they were published in English between 2000 and 2019 and focused on resilience with the

study design including at least one of these four features: (a) use of standardized measures of resilience, (b) qualitative descriptions of resilience, (c) participants were survivors or professionals serving survivors, and (d) data sources such as case files or program manuals directly pertained to survivors. Eighteen studies were identified. Findings indicated that resilience was primarily described as emergent from interactions between the survivor and the environment. Resilience in trafficking appeared largely similar to resilience in other kinds of victimization. Nonetheless, trafficking survivors also may display resilience in alternative ways such as refusing treatment. Positive interpersonal relationships were the most commonly mentioned resilience factor. In addition, current research lacks studies featuring longitudinal designs, interventions, participatory methods, types of trafficking other than sexual trafficking, and demographic characteristics such as age, gender, and national origin. Future research needs to establish definitions and measures of resilience that are culturally and contextually relevant to survivors and build knowledge necessary for designing and evaluating resilience-enhancing interventions.

Krieger, K. E., Gibbs, D. A., & Cutbush, S. L. (2022). Evaluating human trafficking service programs: What can be learned from domestic violence service program evaluations. *Journal of Human Trafficking*, 8(2), 157-183.
DOI:10.1080/23322705.2020.1784686

Evaluations of human trafficking service programs are necessary to determine if they are effective and to document how they are working. Yet, human trafficking programs have only recently begun to be evaluated and little is known about the most effective approaches. To evaluate human trafficking programs, evaluators can learn from field-tested evaluation designs and methodologies of similar service programs. Domestic violence programs have many parallels to human trafficking programs and have an extensive evaluation literature base from which to draw. This paper documents the current status of human trafficking and domestic violence service program evaluations,

identifies areas in which human trafficking program evaluations can build on domestic violence program evaluations, and provides recommendations for future human trafficking program evaluations.

O'Brien, J., Finkelhor, D., & Jones, L. (2022). [Improving services for youth survivors of commercial sexual exploitation: Insights from interventions with other high-risk youth](#). *Children and Youth Services Review*, 132, 106313.
DOI:10.1016/j.chidyouth.2021.106313

Background: There have been initiatives to develop innovative services for commercially sexually exploited children (CSEC), but there are currently no intervention strategies that have been rigorously evaluated. However, a range of evidence-based interventions have been identified for other problems that frequently co-occur with CSEC. As intervention programs for victims of CSEC develop, it is important to critically examine the research on interventions for these associated problems to ensure that what is borrowed, adapted, or prioritized is informed by research, and likely to best address the needs of victims. Objective: The current review examines evidence-based interventions from related social problem fields that may have useful content for victims of CSEC. Existing systematic reviews were primarily used for this review; however, rigorous and large-scale randomized controlled trials were also included. In total, 33 articles were included. Articles were identified via search engine (e.g., PsychInfo) and reference mining. Review: Interventions for adolescent substance use, delinquency, trauma, school dropout, and running away are reviewed for their content and evidence base. Opportunities for integration of CSEC content are discussed using current extant literature. Discussion: The most promising practices from related fields include mentorship, multisystemic treatment (MST), family programming/therapy, and kinship foster care. Skill-based interventions (e.g., CBT) have been found to be a particularly effective mental health intervention for youth with similar sequelae to victims of CSEC. Importantly, outcomes

improve when interventions are paired with relationship-building strategies such as mentorship or group therapy. Implications for CSEC practice and research are discussed.

Raza, M., & Feehs, K. (2022). [Dispelling sex trafficking conspiracy theories: The truth behind who is recruited by traffickers and how](#). *William & Mary Journal of Race, Gender & Social Justice*, 29(3), 653.

United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (2022). [Global report on trafficking in persons](https://www.unodc.org/documents/dataandanalysis/glotip/2022/GLOTiP_2022_web.pdf).
https://www.unodc.org/documents/dataandanalysis/glotip/2022/GLOTiP_2022_web.pdf

The UNODC Global Report on Trafficking in Persons aims to shed light on a shared problem and drive action against this crime by providing policymakers and practitioners with the information and analysis they need to sharpen responses and improve prevention. For the first time, the Report also features contributions from young academics as part of UNODC's efforts to support the next generation of researchers and build new connections to support effective solutions.

Cook, M. C., Talbert, R. D., & Thomas, B. (2021). [A longitudinal study of justice characteristics among girls participating in a sex trafficking court program](#). *Health & Justice*, 9(1), 1-12. DOI:10.1186/s40352-020-00127-1

Sex trafficking is a public health and social justice issue that has traditionally been addressed with criminal justice solutions. Because many sex trafficking survivors are incarcerated for crimes related to their exploitation, specialty, human trafficking courts were developed to offer resources and assistance to labor and sex trafficking survivors. This study assessed justice-involved youth participating in a specialty, anti-trafficking court program. The purpose of this study was to investigate justice-related outcomes of participants in a specialty court program. We examined: (1) the relationship between age

at first citation and justice characteristics (number of bench warrants, number of citations, number placements, and number of times ran away); and (2) the number of months between first citation and enrollment into the program with the aforementioned justice characteristics. We used negative binomial models to estimate the relationships between age at first citation, number of months between first citation and program enrollment, with the four justice characteristics ($n = 181$). Adjusted models showed that younger age at first citation was associated with significantly more bench warrants and citations while in the program. Likewise, fewer months between first citation and program entry was related to more bench warrants and citations. There is a need to evaluate the appropriateness of specialty, trafficking court programs in reducing continued justice involvement and these programs ability to meet the evolving needs of sex trafficking survivors over time. We recommend universal screening for trafficking indicators for all systems-involved youth and relocating trafficking specialty courts out of juvenile courts to dependency courts.

Fang, S., Nguyen, P., Coverdale, J., & Gordon, M. (2021). [What are the human trafficking policies of professional medical organizations?](#) *Journal of Human Trafficking*, 7(2), 137-144. DOI:10.1080/23322705.2019.1698895

Human trafficking is an international public health concern in which healthcare professionals are in a unique position to intervene. It is unclear how professional medical organizations have responded to the need to identify and assist trafficked patients. Using key phrases “human trafficking,” “medical organization,” and “policy,” search engines and databases including Google Scholar, PubMed, and Google were utilized to identify medical organizations that had policies regarding human trafficking. The HEAL (Health, Education, Advocacy and Linkage) Trafficking website was also cross-referenced to identify additional medical organizations. Overall, eight out of 265 national medical organizations had policies regarding human trafficking. These were the American

Medical Association, American Medical Women's Association, American Academy of Family Physicians, Christian Medical and Dental Association, American Academy of Pediatrics, American College of Emergency Physicians, American College of Obstetrics and Gynecology, and American Psychiatric Association. Policy statements varied in their content, recommendations, and victim populations addressed. Opportunities exist for national medical organizations to develop their policy statements on human trafficking. While medical organizations' policies do not ensure compliance or meaningful impacts of changes in practice behaviors, they can bring attention to this public health concern and encourage training and higher standards of care.

Franchino-Olsen, H. (2021). [Vulnerabilities relevant for commercial sexual exploitation of children/domestic minor sex trafficking: A systematic review of risk factors.](#) *Trauma, Violence, & Abuse*, 22(1), 99–111. DOI:10.1177/1524838018821956

The commercial sexual exploitation of children (CSEC) and domestic minor sex trafficking (DMST) occur across the United States, violating the rights and health of far too many children and youth. Adequate prevention efforts should seek to understand the factors that make minors vulnerable to sexual exploitation in order to properly design programs to prevent victimization. This review presents the identified risk factors collected via a systematic literature review. Following full-text review, 15 studies were selected for inclusion by meeting the following criteria: original quantitative or qualitative research studies published in English from January 2010 to September 2017 with titles or abstracts that indicated a focus on the risk factors, vulnerabilities, or statistics of CSEC/DMST and a domestic focus on CSEC/DMST (for U.S.-based journals) with findings that did not combine associations between minors and adults in the study. Relevant risk factors and vulnerabilities found in this review include child abuse and maltreatment, caregiver strain, running away or being thrown away, substance use, peer influence, witnessing family violence or criminality, poverty or material need, difficulty in school, conflict with

parents, poor mental health or view of self, involvement in child protective services, involvement in juvenile detention or delinquency, early substance use, and prior rape or adolescent sexual victimization.

Klein, L. B., Chesworth, B. R., Rizo, C. F., Franchino-Olsen, H., Croft, C., Macy, R. J., & Martin, S. L. (2021). Commercial sexual exploitation of children: Indicators and recommended inquiries and responses for social workers. *Social Work, 66*(3), 265–268. DOI:10.1093/sw/swab017

Commercial sexual exploitation of children (CSEC) is a significant social problem in the United States. As defined by the Victims of Trafficking and Violence Protection Act of 2000 (TVPA), sex trafficking includes “the recruitment, harboring, transportation, provision, or obtaining of a person for the purpose of a commercial sex act” (p. 1). Victims under the age of 18 years are not legally able to consent to commercialized sex; therefore, evidence of force, fraud, coercion, or deception is not necessary to establish acts as CSEC (Adelson, 2008). Although we know that CSEC can result in negative physical, psychological, developmental, and social consequences for victims (Greenbaum & Crawford-Jakubiak, 2015), we have no credible statistical estimates of the number of children victimized annually by CSEC even though cases have been identified in all 50 states across many demographic groups (Stransky & Finkelhor, 2008). Schools are key sites for identifying and responding to CSEC victims, because of the amount of time youths spend in school. Moreover, traffickers can use school settings and other students to recruit youths into CSEC (U.S. Department of Education, Office of Safe and Healthy Students [ED, OSHS], 2015). Therefore, it is critical for school social workers (SSWs) to know how to identify and respond to CSEC victims and connect them with resources.

Hounmenou, C. (2021). A statewide coalition's input in human trafficking policy implementation: Member organizations' involvement and perceptions. *Journal of Human Trafficking*, 7(1), 69–87. DOI:10.1080/23322705.2019.1621585

During the last 10 years, many coalitions have been built at state and city levels in the U.S. to help implement anti-trafficking policies. Yet, sparse literature is available examining the ways coalitions are coordinated, the contributions coalitions make to trafficking policy implementation, and members' perspectives on coalition's effectiveness. This paper addresses this gap by examining (a) the involvement of member organizations in a statewide anti-trafficking coalition in one Midwestern state in the U.S. and (b) member organizations' perceptions of the coalition's effectiveness. This study employed an exploratory, quantitative research design, and collected data through a mailed survey. Purposive sampling was used to recruit participants. Seventy-three of the 90 member organizations' leaders recruited for the study completed the survey (81% response rate). The diversity of services and resources in this coalition show its potential to support the state's responses to trafficking through interagency collaboration. Yet, few coalition members collaborated in providing assistance to trafficking victims. Limited commitment of members, failure to engage members, and lack of visible leadership, were some challenges perceived as affecting the coalition's effectiveness. Member organizations providing direct services to trafficking victims appeared to have a more positive perception of the coalition's achievements. Implications are discussed.

Knorre, Z. L., Watt, B. D., Fritzson, K., & Phelan, A. (2021). Expert consensus definition of domestic minor sex trafficking in Australia. *Journal of Human Trafficking*, 7(3), 325–337. DOI:10.1080/23322705.2020.1712642

Domestic minor sex trafficking is often thought of as a crime that happens somewhere else (outside of Australia), with most conceptualizations involving a child who is internationally trafficked. The lack of a clear definition of domestic minor trafficking is a challenge often cited in the literature. In response, the current research explored an

operational definition of domestic minor sex trafficking, using a Delphi methodology. A commonly held view of Australians is that Australia is impervious to trafficking, despite numerous cases of exploitation appearing to fit the international and Australian legal definition of trafficking (identified in legal databases and media reports). The Delphi method is an iterative survey method developed by the Rand Corporation in the 1950s. In the current study, a panel of 14 experts participated in three rounds of online surveys to reach a consensus definition of domestic minor sex trafficking within Australia. Ten themes were identified and used to develop the operational definition. The results will be used as a basis to examine prevalence of domestic trafficking and the characteristics of those who domestically traffic children, in addition to examining clarity and effectiveness of the current legislation.

Korovich, M., & Fondacaro, M. (2021). The criminalized victim: Evaluating public perceptions of sex trafficked individuals. *Journal of Child Sexual Abuse, 30*(6), 684–702. DOI:10.1080/10538712.2021.1955788

Individuals who have been sex trafficked are continuously being targeted for prostitution and other related offenses instead of being recognized for their victimization. This may occur due to a fundamental lack of understanding of the sex-trafficked experience, allowing for misperceptions to form unhindered. Individuals with these misperceptions then go on to form laws and services intended to aid victims, but instead leave them vulnerable and criminalized. This study assessed whether an educational intervention on the experience of a sex-trafficked individual could influence public perceptions of free will doubt and criminal culpability. This study used a non-equivalent groups posttest-only design to administer an article on the sex trafficking experience, including the trauma and coercion a victim faces, or a neutral article on optical illusions, to then assess sex trafficking knowledge, free will doubt, and culpability beliefs. Participants (N = 445) were recruited from the general public through Amazon Mechanical Turk and were reimbursed

for their involvement. Results suggest that even when individuals display a basic understanding of the sex trafficking experience, they do not fully comprehend the complexities of how free will can be compromised by trauma and coercion, ultimately affecting perceptions of personal culpability for criminal activity.

Nogalska, A., Henderson, H., Cho, S., & Lyon, T. D. (2021). [Police interviewing behaviors and commercially sexually exploited adolescents' reluctance](#). *Psychology, Public Policy, and Law*, 27(3), 328–340. DOI:10.1037/law0000315

Little is known about the relation between law enforcement interviewing behaviors and commercially sexually exploited children's (CSEC) reluctance. This study examined the relation between officers' use of maximization, (references to) expertise, minimization, and support and adolescent CSEC victims' reluctance in a small sample of police interviews (n = 2,416 question-answer pairs across ten interviews). Twenty-six percent of officers' utterances contained at least one interviewing tactic. When statements were paired with maximization, they were correlated with more reluctance than when they were not paired with an interviewing tactic. Contrary to predictions, support was also related to greater reluctance. Open-ended (recall) questions and statements were associated with greater reluctance than closed-ended (recognition) questions. The results highlight the importance of understanding the context in which interviewing strategies are employed when assessing the relation between interviewer behavior and interviewee reluctance.

Querol, A., & Lerner, A. (2021). The vulnerability of minors after a child trafficking situation. *Journal of Human Trafficking*, 10(1), 103–120. DOI:10.1080/23322705.2021.1996126

This article reports the experience of 20 minor victims of human trafficking in Peru and eight of their mothers, and describes how their vulnerability as victims increases because

they are minors, and are often not considered subjects of law. The fact that they are under-aged seems to determine the type of assistance and care they receive during their reintegration process. The role of immediate family or other significant relatives, if any, is pivotal in the recovery process as they turn out to be a significant support system for the survivors. Their testimonies reveal different experiences depending on whether they were rescued or had escaped from the exploitative situation and describe how they were treated by service providers during their access to justice. Having a victim-centered approach to children that understands the complexity of trauma is essential and should ensure among other things a period of reflection after rescue and family intervention, when possible. The study describes a State that fails to apply policies and norms in favor of children and adolescents or their rights. The findings reveal the need to investigate and find ways to overcome this situation. Understanding the importance of accessing justice and having a victim- and trauma- centered approach is vital to promoting a just and peaceful society (SDG 16). Law enforcement and service providers responsible for protection and reintegration should apply a gender approach in their assistance to victims, so that stigmas and stereotypes do not interfere with the victims' recovery (SDG 5). Coordinated strategies between different sectors are necessary for enabling victims of human trafficking and exploitation to overcome the conditions that made them vulnerable. Weak institutions limit access to justice, thus posing a threat to sustainable development in the long term.

Starcher, D. L., Anderson, V. R., Kulig, T. C., & Sullivan, C. J. (2021). Human trafficking cases presenting within child advocacy centers. *Journal of Child Sexual Abuse*, 30(6), 637-652. DOI:10.1080/10538712.2021.1955791

Although human trafficking of minors is an increasing concern within the United States, very little information is known about how trafficking cases are processed within child advocacy centers (CACs). The current study addresses this gap in the literature by

providing descriptive information about victims, service referrals, and prosecutorial outcomes for human trafficking cases presenting at CACs across a Midwestern state. The data originates from a state-wide study focused on understanding the scope of human trafficking cases. Specifically, the dataset includes 210 youth presenting at CACs over a three-year period of time. In this sample, the typical human trafficking case involved sex trafficking of a self-identified white female victim, with an offender known to the victim. Most child survivors passing through CACs were referred to medical and mental health services, although these service referrals did not greatly differ across at-risk versus substantiated trafficking cases. Overall, the findings suggest that CACs are uniquely positioned to encounter human trafficking cases and provide needed services to trafficking survivors. Finally, recommendations are provided for CACs regarding the intake and identification of trafficking cases more broadly.

Bales, K., Murphy, L. T., & Silverman, B. W. (2020). [How many trafficked people are there in Greater New Orleans? Lessons in measurement](#). *Journal of Human Trafficking*, 6(4), 375–387. DOI:10.1080/23322705.2019.1634936

In an effort to develop a model for estimating prevalence in a city or region of the United States, this study employed Multiple Systems Estimation, a statistical approach that uses data on known cases collected from individual agencies to estimate the number not known, with the ultimate aim of estimating the prevalence of trafficking in a region. Utilizing de-identified data provided by local non-profits and law enforcement agencies, the researchers estimated the prevalence of trafficking in the New Orleans-Metairie metropolitan statistical area. This represents one of the first attempts to use Multiple Systems Estimation to quantify human trafficking in a United States context. The article provides an account of the impediments to and limitations of conducting such an estimate, given the definitional variance and political dynamics that are endemic to anti-trafficking efforts in the United States. The authors provide recommendations for data

collection and prevalence analysis that could be applied in other cities or regions of the United States as well as in other similarly-resourced environments.

Goździak, E. M. (2020). [Low hanging fruit: How domestic minor sex trafficking erased foreign-born victims of child trafficking from anti-trafficking efforts in the United States](#). *Journal of Human Trafficking*, 6(2), 226–233.
DOI:10.1080/23322705.2020.1691821

Hampton, M. D., & Lieggi, M. (2020). Commercial sexual exploitation of youth in the United States: A qualitative systematic review. *Trauma, Violence, & Abuse*, 21(1), 57–70.
DOI:10.1177/1524838017742168

Homeless, runaway, and transgender youth are at high risk for commercial sexual exploitation in the United States. Research examining this phenomenon is growing but requires synthesis to facilitate its use by professionals who serve this population. The purpose of this review was to aggregate the qualitative evidence regarding commercially sexually exploited youth (CSEY) in the United States. The search included published and unpublished qualitative studies with current or former CSEY who reside in the United States. There were 19 studies included in the review with a total of 795 participants. Eight themes were identified and grouped into three broader categories: experiences that preceded sex work entry, experiences that facilitated sex work continuation, and experiences that facilitated sex work exit. Understanding the barriers and facilitators of commercial sexual exploitation can inform the development of interventions that address the needs of CSEY and youth at risk for exploitation. The results of this review highlight the social and economic influences as well as the role of positive and negative reinforcements involved in sex work entry, its continuation, and exit. Needs for services, research, and advocacy are also discussed.

Johnson, B. C. (2020). Trauma recovery for victims of sex trafficking. *Child Abuse & Neglect*, 100, 104153. DOI:10.1016/j.chiabu.2019.104153

This invited article is one of several comprising part of a special issue of *Child Abuse and Neglect* focused on child trafficking and health. The purpose of each invited article is to describe a specific program serving trafficked children. Featuring these programs is intended to raise awareness of innovative counter-trafficking strategies emerging worldwide and facilitate collaboration on program development and outcomes research. This article describes a mental health program within Agape Restoration Center (ARC), a residential treatment center in Phnom Penh, Cambodia. Development of the mental health services program was based on a modified version of an evidence-based trauma-focused cognitive behavioral therapeutic modality developed in the U.S.

Lanctôt, N., Reid, J. A., & Laurier, C. (2020). Nightmares and flashbacks: The impact of commercial sexual exploitation of children among female adolescents placed in residential care. *Child Abuse & Neglect*, 100, 104195. DOI:10.1016/j.chiabu.2019.104195

Important unresolved questions remain concerning the specific vulnerabilities and intervention needs of female adolescents who experience commercial sexual exploitation of children (CSEC), when compared to other highly vulnerable female adolescents. This study aimed to assess differences in the level of post-traumatic symptoms reported by those who experienced CSEC during adolescence and those who did not. The study used longitudinal data collected from 125 French-speaking female adolescents who were placed in residential centers between the ages 12 and 17 years. Post-traumatic symptoms were assessed at Time 1 and Time 6, while CSEC involvement was assessed at Times 1-5. One-way ANOVAs were performed to inspect differences in the level of post-traumatic symptoms at Time 6 between the participants who reported CSEC during adolescence ($n = 70$; 56.0%) and those with no history of CSEC ($n = 55$; 44.0%). Hierarchical regressions examined the effects of CSEC while controlling for age,

immigration status, child sexual abuse, and post-traumatic symptoms reported at Time 1. CSEC during adolescence predicted higher levels of general post-traumatic symptoms, anxious arousal, intrusive experiences, defensive avoidance, and dissociation. CSEC experiences intensify the existing vulnerabilities to traumatic sequelae that characterize female adolescents who are placed in residential care.

Miller, C. L., Chisolm-Straker, M., Duke, G., & Stoklosa, H. (2020). A framework for the development of healthcare provider education programs on human trafficking part three: Recommendations. *Journal of Human Trafficking*, 6(4), 425-434.
DOI:10.1080/23322705.2019.1635342

Human Trafficking (HT) also known as Trafficking in Persons (TIP) is increasingly recognized as a public health problem. This increased awareness has prompted healthcare providers (HCP), healthcare organizations, non-governmental organizations (NGO), and governmental entities to develop healthcare provider education programs and curricular content. While well-intentioned, some education programs lack an evidence-based, trauma-informed, survivor-informed approach. Evidence shows that survivors report experiencing mental and physical harm, from shame and humiliation, to sexual assault from HCPs when seeking care services. As organizations endeavor to provide education to HCPs on HT, organizations have a responsibility to ensure content delivered is evidence-based, trauma-informed, and survivor informed. This paper seeks to provide such recommendations and guidelines and is based on the findings of a two-round Delphi study of subject matter and survivor experts and the best available evidence.

Munro-Kramer, M., Beck, D., Choi, K., Singer, R., Gebhard, A., & Carr, B. (2020). Human trafficking victim's service needs and outcomes: An analysis of clinical law data. *Journal of Human Trafficking*, 6(1), 95–108. DOI:10.1080/23322705.2019.1574476

Human trafficking is a human rights violation occurring around the world. Despite the profound social, health, and economic consequences of this crime, there is a lack of research about the prevalence and needs of human trafficking victims. The purpose of this study is to describe the healthcare, social service, and legal needs of human trafficking victims seeking services at the University of Michigan Human Trafficking Clinic. A secondary analysis of the University of Michigan Human Trafficking Clinic closed case files from 2009–2016 was performed. Data were extracted from the legal files to create a database and data analyses were completed using descriptive frequencies, logistic, and linear regression. Data were extracted from 65 closed cases made up of 49 female victims (75.4%) and 16 male victims (24.6%) between the ages of 13 and 68 years old ($M=30.15$). Victims had experienced labor (56.9%) and sex (47.7%) trafficking. Logistic regression modeling indicated that trafficking experiences significantly influenced posttrafficking mental healthcare, social service, and legal needs. Victims of human trafficking have extensive needs; however, there are many barriers to seeking and receiving comprehensive services. In order to serve this vulnerable population, collaboration between disciplines must occur.

Moore, J. L., Houck, C., Hirway, P., Barron, C. E., & Goldberg, A. P. (2020). Trafficking experiences and psychosocial features of domestic minor sex trafficking victims. *Journal of Interpersonal Violence*, 35(15–16), 3148–3163. DOI:10.1177/0886260517703373

Domestic minor sex trafficking (DMST) is an increasingly recognized traumatic crime premised upon the control, abuse, and exploitation of youth. By definition, DMST is the “recruitment, harboring, transportation, provision, or obtaining of a person for the purpose of a commercial sex act” within domestic borders, in which the person is a U.S. citizen or

lawful permanent resident under the age of 18 years. The present study described the demographics, psychosocial features, and trafficking experiences (e.g., environments of recruitment, relationship to trafficker, solicitation) of DMST victims. A total of 25 medical records of patients under the age of 18 who disclosed their involvement in DMST to medical providers between August 1, 2013, and November 30, 2015, were retrospectively reviewed. The majority of patients were female, and the mean age was 15.4 years old. Most patients lived at home and/or were accompanied at the evaluation by a parent/guardian. High rates of alcohol or substance use/abuse (92%), being placed in a group home or child protective services (CPS) custody (28%), a history of runaway behavior (60%), and/or exposure to other child maltreatment (88%) were identified. Our data indicated variation in reported trafficking experiences; however, patients commonly reported an established relationship with their trafficker (60%) and recruitment occurred primarily as a result of financial motivation (52%). Patients were prevalently recruited in settings where there were face-to-face interactions (56%), whereas the solicitation of sex-buyers occurred primarily online (92%). Victims who disclosed involvement in DMST had complicated psychosocial histories that may have rendered them susceptible to their exploitation, and reported a variety of DMST experiences perpetuated by traffickers. Although preliminary in nature, this study provided empirical evidence of the predisposing factors, motivations, and experiences of victimized youth uniquely from the perspective of patients who sought medical care.

Palines, P. A., Rabbitt, A. L., Pan, A. Y., Nugent, M. L., & Ehrman, W. G. (2020). Comparing mental health disorders among sex trafficked children and three groups of youth at high-risk for trafficking: a dual retrospective cohort and scoping review. *Child Abuse & Neglect*, 100, 104196. DOI:10.1016/j.chiabu.2019.104196

Individuals at high-risk for trafficking are often subject to preexisting complex trauma that only intensifies during the trafficking experience. This greatly increases their risk of mental illness, although the actual prevalence of mental health disorders in children who are sex

trafficked remains unclear. The objective of the study was to examine the prevalence of mental health diagnoses among a sample of youth identified as being sex trafficked, and to discuss these rates in relation to other high-risk groups reported in the literature. We retrospectively reviewed individual medical records, identifying mental health diagnoses and behaviors. The results were compared to summarized prevalence data for mental health disorders in sex trafficked, runaway children, juvenile offenders, and foster care children identified via a scoping review. We observed significantly higher rates of ADHD (52.4%, $p < 0.0001$), bipolar disorder (26.6%, $p < 0.0001$), and PTSD (19.6%, $p < 0.05$ to $p < 0.0001$) in our sample of trafficked youth compared to all high-risk groups, as well as for depression (45.5%), anxiety (19.6%), conduct disorder (19.6%), ODD (25.9%), and psychosis (14.0%) relative to multiple groups individually. The complex trauma suffered by child survivors of sex trafficking can impart numerous effects with overlapping symptomatology of many mental health disorders. Survivors' adaptive responses to complex trauma may lead to improper diagnosis and treatment of mental health disorders at the expense of prompt access to trauma-focused therapies. Alternative diagnoses and treatments of this complex dysfunction are discussed.

Rothman, E. F., Preis, S. R., Bright, K., Paruk, J., Bair-Merritt, M., & Farrell, A. (2020). [A longitudinal evaluation of a survivor-mentor program for child survivors of sex trafficking in the United States](#). *Child Abuse & Neglect*, 100, 104083. DOI:10.1016/j.chiabu.2019.104083

Commercial sexual exploitation (CSE) of children is a significant public health and criminal justice problem, but there are few evaluated models of CSE mentorship service. The objective was to assess whether youth who participated in a CSE survivor-mentor program evidenced changes in CSE victimization, dating abuse victimization, health, delinquency, social support, and coping during the year following their enrollment in the program. 41 youth who were CSE-experienced at baseline (72%) or determined very high risk, 11–18 years old, 95% female, 58% heterosexual, 29% White, 29% Hispanic, and 42% other

racess/ethnicities. We used a one-group repeated measures design and a GEE analysis. Data were collected at baseline, six months after baseline (71% follow-up) and 12 months after baseline (68% follow-up). At baseline 72% could be characterized as CSE-experienced, while at 6 months the percentage decreased to 24% ($p < 0.001$) and at 12 months to 14% ($p < 0.001$). After 6 months of receiving survivor-mentor services, youth were less likely to have experienced CSE, engaged in sexually explicit behavior (SEB), used illicit drugs, engaged in delinquent behavior, been arrested or detained by police, and they had better social support and coping skills. After 12 months, youth were less likely to have experienced CSE, to have engaged in delinquent behavior, be arrested or detained by police, and had improved coping skills. Findings demonstrate that youth who received survivor-mentor services from MLMC experienced improved well-being and less drug use, delinquent behavior, and exploitation.

Schwarz, C., Xing, C., Britton, H. E., & Johnson, P. E. (2020). [A prototype comparison of human trafficking warning signs: US Midwest frontline workers' perceptions.](#) *Journal of Human Trafficking*, 8(4), 419–440. DOI:10.1080/23322705.2020.1834772

Guided by the cognitive prototype approach, this article examines the prototype structure of the frontline workers' perceptions concerning warning sign indicators in human trafficking. Online survey responses across a range of workplace sectors were analyzed using multiple-group confirmatory factor analysis (MG-CFA) for three groups. These groups were based on respondents' self-reported human trafficking experiences: no witness (no encounter of human trafficking), sex trafficking witness, and labor trafficking witness. The MG-CFA analysis revealed a three-factor structure – physical condition, reproductive health, and personal risk – representing the participants' perceptions of the warning signs. Further analysis showed group-level mean (latent intercept) and variance differences between the prototype structures of the three witness groups. The final structural model results indicate that these group-level prototype

differences can be explained by two organizational resource variables: identification protocol and training. The results are discussed in light of the current empirical literature on human trafficking identification, stereotypical frames of victimhood, and policy practices.

Tsai, L. C., Lim, V., & Nhanh, C. (2020). ["I feel like we are people who have never known each other before": The experiences of survivors of human trafficking and sexual exploitation transitioning from shelters to life in the community](#). *Forum Qualitative Sozialforschung/Forum: Qualitative Social Research*, 21(1), Article 16. DOI:10.17169/fqs-21.1.3259

In this article, we explore the experiences of survivors of human trafficking and sexual exploitation in Cambodia as they transition from living in trafficking-specific shelter facilities to living in the community. We analyzed data from Chab Dai's Butterfly Longitudinal Research (BLR) project, a 10-year longitudinal study with survivors of human trafficking and sexual exploitation in Cambodia utilizing a prospective panel design. We present findings from our analysis of 236 interviews and narrative summaries of interviews conducted with survivors between the years 2011 and 2016 (n=79). An interpretive phenomenological approach was used to understand survivors' experiences during this transition. Themes included: conflicted feelings about life in the community; difficulties completing school and securing employment; violence in the community; limited follow-up; unfulfilled expectations; feeling loved like a family member in the shelter, but abandoned in the community; vulnerability in the community due to dramatic differences between shelters and the community; and varied experiences with case closure. We underscore the importance of understanding and listening to the voices of survivors about their experiences in the anti-human trafficking sector and discuss implications for the design and implementation of services for survivors of human trafficking and sexual exploitation in Southeast Asia.

Whaling, K. M., der Sarkissian, A., Sharkey, J., & Akoni, L. C. (2020). Featured counter trafficking program: Resiliency Interventions for Sexual Exploitation (RISE). *Child Abuse & Neglect*, 100, 104139. DOI:10.1016/j.chiabu.2019.104139

This invited article is one of several comprising part of a special issue of Child Abuse and Neglect focused on child trafficking and health. The purpose of each invited article is to describe a specific program serving children who are survivors of trafficking (a subset of commercial sexual exploitation–CSE). These programs are featured to raise awareness of innovative counter-trafficking strategies emerging worldwide and facilitate collaboration on program development and outcomes research. This article describes Resiliency Interventions for Sexual Exploitation (RISE), a US-based multidisciplinary program dedicated to assisting female, LGBT and gender non-conforming (GNC) youth victims and survivors of commercial sexual exploitation (CSE) and child trafficking to develop the skills and resources for successful community reintegration. This is accomplished through daily collaborations with community partners (MDT–Multidisciplinary Treatment Teams), gender-specific trauma-focused services, comprehensive outreach and engagement efforts and intensive case management.

Barron, C. E., Moore, J. L., Baird, G. L., & Goldberg, A. P. (2019). Domestic minor sex trafficking in the medical setting: A survey of the knowledge, discomfort, and training of pediatric attending physicians. *Journal of Human Trafficking*, 5(1), 13–24. DOI:10.1080/23322705.2017.1388650

Domestic minor sex trafficking (DMST) is a severe manifestation of sexual abuse and a major domestic health issue. The adverse health consequences of DMST bring victims into contact with health institutions and medical providers frequently, providing the opportunity for identification and intervention. Youth at risk or involved in DMST, however, are difficult to identify and often go unrecognized during health care visits. Little is known about the knowledge, comfort, and training gaps of physicians in identifying and managing patient victims of DMST. Our objectives were to assess (1) reported training

and experiences; (2) perceived knowledge, comfort, and barriers; and (3) performance on medical decision-making questions regarding the identification, screening, and management of DMST in a population of pediatric attending physicians. An anonymous electronic survey was sent to pediatricians in Rhode Island from November 2014 through January 2015. Voluntary participants were 109 Rhode Island general pediatric and pediatric subspecialist physicians. Overall, participants perceived having limited knowledge, comfort, and training and reported barriers that corresponded with inaccurate answers on medical decision-making questions. These findings identify the impediments and obstacles to the care of DMST patients and inform the need for standardized education and training for pediatricians on this issue.

Dell, N. A., Maynard, B. R., Born, K. R., Wagner, E., Atkins, B., & House, W. (2019). Helping survivors of human trafficking: A systematic review of exit and postexit interventions. *Trauma, Violence, & Abuse, 20*(2), 183–196.
DOI:10.1177/1524838017692553

Human trafficking is a global problem and results in deleterious psychological, social, and physical effects on the lives of those who are trafficked; however, it is not clear how to best intervene with survivors. The purpose of this review was to synthesize the evidence of exit and postexit intervention programs for survivors of human trafficking to inform practice and research. Systematic review methods were used to search, select, and extract data from published and unpublished experimental, quasi-experimental, and pre-experimental studies that assessed the effects of any exit or postexit interventions for victims of human trafficking. The authors searched eight databases, reviewed bibliographies, and conducted forward citation searches from relevant reports and prior reviews to find studies authored between 2005 and 2015. The search yielded six eligible studies that included 155 female and 6 male survivors from four countries. Interventions were diverse, with three using a trauma-informed approach. Authors measured a myriad of outcomes, including mental health, social network, community reintegration, and

employment; however, the quality of most studies was poor. Evidence of effects of exit and postexit interventions is sparse, and much of the research is poorly designed and executed; however, the needs of trafficking survivors are complex and effective interventions are desperately needed. Implications for practice and research are discussed.

Fedina, L., Williamson, C., & Perdue, T. (2019). Risk factors for domestic child sex trafficking in the United States. *Journal of Interpersonal Violence, 34*(13), 2653–2673.
DOI:10.1177/0886260516662306

Despite increased effort to respond to human trafficking at national and state levels, very little empirical research has been conducted on domestic child sex trafficking. This study retrospectively examines associations between multiple risk factors and domestic child sex trafficking (i.e., entry into the commercial sex industry under the age of 18) in a sample of individuals aged 16 and older currently involved in the commercial sex industry ($N = 273$). Two primary research questions are addressed: (1) What set of risk factors, prior to entering the commercial sex industry, are associated with domestic child sex trafficking and (2) what group differences, if any, exist in risk factors between current or former domestic child sex-trafficking victims and non-trafficked adults engaged in the commercial sex industry? A cross-sectional survey was administered using Respondent-Driven Sampling (RDS) in five cities in one Midwestern state. Overall, 115 participants (48.3%) were identified as current or former domestic child sex-trafficking victims. Bivariate results suggest that childhood emotional and sexual abuse, rape, ever running away from home, having family members in sex work, and having friends who purchased sex were significantly associated with domestic child sex trafficking. Multivariate results indicate that domestic child sex trafficking victims were significantly more likely to have ever run away and to be a racial/ethnic minority than non-trafficked adults engaged in the commercial sex industry. Findings can inform state-level policies on human

trafficking and assist child protection and juvenile justice agencies in developing prevention and intervention responses to commercial sexual exploitation.

Lavoie, J., Dickerson, K. L., Redlich, A. D., & Quas, J. A. (2019). [Overcoming disclosure reluctance in youth victims of sex trafficking: New directions for research, policy, and practice](#). *Psychology, Public Policy, and Law*, 25(4), 225–238.
DOI:10.1037/law0000205

An alarming number of youth worldwide are victims of commercial sexual exploitation, particularly sex trafficking. Normative developmental processes and motivations across the adolescent period—the age when youth are at greatest risk for trafficking—combined with their history, make them highly likely to be reluctant to disclose their exploitation to police, who often encounter victims because they are suspected of delinquency and crime and who interrogate the victims as suspects. Little scientific and policy attention has been devoted to understanding how to question these victims in a way that reduces their disclosure reluctance and increases their provision of legally relevant information. In the current review, we describe research concerning trafficking victims’ histories and exploitative experiences, juvenile suspects’ and victims’ encounters with the legal system, and best-practice forensic interviewing approaches to elicit disclosures from child victims. We highlight the implications of these areas for understanding the dynamics between how police encounter and interact with adolescent trafficking victims and whether and how the victims disclose trafficking details during these interactions. We close with an agenda for research to test interviewing methods for suspected victims of sex trafficking and with policy and practice recommendations for interviewers.

McCoy, M. (2019). Measurements of vulnerability to domestic minor sex trafficking: A systematic review. *Journal of Human Trafficking*, 5(1), 1-12.
DOI:10.1080/23322705.2017.1385334

Domestic minor sex trafficking (DMST) is one type of human trafficking, in which a minor American citizen or resident alien is commercially sexually exploited within United States borders. One of the areas of DMST inquiry that may benefit from additional attention are the domains of vulnerability and risk. The risk factors that are often named in the literature as predictive of DMST include youth runaway status, homelessness, involvement with the child welfare system, belonging to a sexual or racial minority group, and a history of child physical or sexual abuse. However, none of these named factors has yet achieved predictive validity in the literature, and the field appears confused about how to position and validate these hypothesized risk factors into a DMST vulnerability measurement tool. Within the present systematic review, a search for relevant publications occurred within numerous databases. A full text review of the articles that met inclusion criteria revealed that none of the empirical articles within the sampling frame utilized a validated measurement of DMST vulnerability. The articles, however, provided insight into the associations between risk factors and DMST victimization. The results of this review fill a sizable gap in the literature by assessing available publications for an operationalization of youth vulnerability to DMST. The review concludes with recommendations for the next steps that are required for the development and implementation of a DMST vulnerability measurement tool with predictive validity.

O'Brien, J. E. (2019). ["What does it matter how we define it?": Exploring definitions of DMST among service providers and victims/survivors](#). *Journal of Human Trafficking*, 5(2), 91-108. DOI:10.1080/23322705.2017.1410415

Domestic minor sex trafficking (DMST) is one of the most prevalent yet hidden forms of child abuse in the United States. DMST victims are diverse in age, race, and socioeconomic status. Many DMST victims are involved in state-level systems including

the child welfare and/or juvenile justice system. State-level systems are federally mandated to identify children who are at risk or survivors of DMST. Unfortunately, DMST victim/survivor identification is inconsistent and often ineffective and is based on service providers' and DMST victims'/survivors' de facto definitions of DMST. This study presents exploratory, qualitative findings regarding service provider and DMST victim/survivor de facto definitions of DMST. In addition, it explores how these definitions are different from and/or similar to extant federal and state legal definitions. Content analysis revealed three key qualitative themes, including force/fraud/coercion, commercialization, and DMST as a form of child sexual abuse. Importantly, DMST victim/survivor and service provider definitions of DMST are different, which may be contributing to ineffective DMST victim/survivor identification protocols. Furthermore, there are several important differences between participants' definitions of DMST and extant federal and state legal definitions. Implications for policy and practice are discussed.

Palombi, L. C., Van Ochten, H., & Patz, C. (2019). [The pharmacists' role in identifying and supporting victims of human trafficking](#). *Journal of Human Trafficking*, 5(3), 255-266. DOI:10.1080/23322705.2018.1494486

Human trafficking (HT), an egregious human rights violation and escalating form of modern-day slavery, has received increasing global attention over the last decade. Despite the fact that the pharmacist is one of the most accessible health-care providers and may have more contact with trafficking victims than other health-care providers in the United States, there is currently little guidance available for pharmacists who wish to support victims of HT. To address this gap, this article provides guidance for pharmacists and pharmacy personnel who wish to provide the best possible care and referral for victims of HT.

Barner, J. R., Okech, D., & Camp, M. A. (2018). ["One size does not fit all:" A proposed ecological model for human trafficking intervention](#). *Journal of Evidence-informed Social Work*, 15(2), 137-150. DOI:10.1080/23761407.2017.1420514

The problem of human trafficking continues to be one of the vilest human rights abuse and manifestation of social injustice around the world. A lot of antitrafficking efforts have been put in place. However, there is still a lot of emphasis on the criminal aspect of the problem. This has meant that human and practical aspects of the problem have not received sufficient attention, including assessing the problem, victims, and perpetrators in their environments. The ecological perspective helps practitioners, researchers, and policy makers to better understand the problem. This article uses the main concepts in this theory to frame the problem. Discussions are directed toward understanding the different aspects of the problem from an ecological perspective.

Gibbs, D. A., Feinberg, R. K., Dolan, M., Latzman, N. E., Misra, S., & Domanico, R. (2018). [Report to Congress: The Child Welfare System response to sex trafficking of children](#). U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families. https://www.acf.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/documents/cb/report_congresschild_trafficking.pdf

Gibbs, D. A., Henninger, A. M., Tueller, S. J., & Kluckman, M. N. (2018). Human trafficking and the child welfare population in Florida. *Children and Youth Services Review*, 88, 1-10. DOI:10.1016/j.chilyouth.2018.02.045

Human trafficking victimization is frequently associated with child abuse or neglect and out-of-home placements. This article presents the largest study to date of human trafficking allegations within a child welfare context, and one of the few to compare children with allegations of human trafficking to others in the child welfare population. It uses state administrative data to examine 4413 allegations of sex and labor trafficking involving 3420 children. These children were more than twice as likely as others to have

experienced prior maltreatment. Among children with prior child welfare experience, those with trafficking allegations were twice as likely to have experienced out-of-home placements, >5 times as likely to have experienced congregate care, and >10 times as likely to have run away from placements. Although these data cannot be interpreted as representing the true prevalence of human trafficking within the child welfare population, they expand our understanding of known victims, with associated implications for research, practice and policy.

Goldberg, A., & Moore, J. (2018). Domestic minor sex trafficking. *Child and Adolescent Psychiatric Clinics*, 27(1), 77–92. DOI:10.1016/j.chc.2017.08.008

Commercial sexual exploitation of children and child sex trafficking is a major public health issue globally. Domestic minor sex trafficking has become increasingly recognized within the United States. Sexually exploited minors are commonly identified as having psychosocial risk factors, including histories of abuse or neglect, running away, substance use or abuse, and involvement with child protective services. Youth also suffer a variety of physical and mental health consequences, including posttraumatic stress disorder, depression, anxiety, and suicidality. Child psychiatrists and other medical providers have the opportunity to identify, interact, and intervene on behalf of involved and at-risk youth.

Herrington, R. L., & McEachern, P. (2018). “Breaking her spirit” through objectification, fragmentation, and consumption: A conceptual framework for understanding domestic sex trafficking. *Journal of Aggression, Maltreatment & Trauma*, 27(6), 598–611. DOI:10.1080/10926771.2017.1420723

It is now recognized that sex trafficking is an issue present in the United States as victims are frequently children and adults who were born and raised in the United States. Anti-trafficking researchers and advocates state that the problem is one of supply and demand and that trafficking of vulnerable individuals will continue until the demand for

commercial sex ceases. One goal of this article is to show how Carol Adams' model of violence against women is uniquely applicable to the issue of sex trafficking. In particular, this article outlines the ways in which objectification, fragmentation, and consumption allow commercial sexual exploitation through sex trafficking to continue. The article also explores links between pornography and sex trafficking as well as the processes traffickers use to groom individuals for exploitation through prostitution in a manner that helps to ensure compliance. Finally, the article seeks to implore clinicians to increase their understanding of the issues unique to sex trafficking survivors and take an integrative theoretical approach when working with trafficked individuals.

Ladd, S. K., & Neufeld Weaver, L. (2018). Moving forward: Collaborative accompaniment of human trafficking survivors by using trauma-informed practices. *Journal of Human Trafficking*, 4(3), 191-212. DOI:10.1080/23322705.2017.1346445

This article proposes a paradigm shift that redefines the implementation of trauma-informed care for human-trafficking survivors. Written from the multidisciplinary perspective of the authors, the article will develop and apply four strengths-based Trauma-Informed Practices (TIPs) that service providers, academics, and policy makers can utilize in improving response to all forms of human trafficking. The TIPs envision collaborative accompaniment as a way of creating safety and reciprocity with, for, and among survivors and those who accompany them. The purpose of this article is to demonstrate that antitrafficking response should give human-trafficking survivors something to move towards, not just something from which to "escape".

Johnson, L., Sapiro, B., Buttner, C., & Postmus, J. L. (2018). [Ambiguous agency as a diagnostic of power: Efforts of child welfare providers to promote responsible agency among youth involved in sex trades.](#) *Journal of Aggression, Maltreatment & Trauma*, 27(6), 577–597. DOI:10.1080/10926771.2018.1468375

Ambiguous agency is a term which has been used to describe the ways in which young people demonstrate their agency in ways that challenge traditional ideas about how youth are supposed to behave. State and nongovernmental actors, such as service providers, generally view these behaviors as deviant and have utilized a variety of interventions to transform these youth so that they engage in acts of responsible agency instead. This article will explore how the concept of ambiguous and responsible agency relate to youth involved in sex trades by analyzing the case records of eight youth who were identified as survivors of domestic minor sex trafficking (DMST) by child protective services within New Jersey through this framework. Specifically, this study seeks to determine the views and perceptions of caseworkers related to ambiguous and responsible agency of these youth. Drawing on notions of agency, this manuscript provides new understandings about how youth involved in sex trades potentially exert their own limited power. Implications for the provision of services to youth involved in sex trades and research are also discussed.

Murphy, L. T. (2018). [Anti-trafficking's sensational misinformation: The "72-hour myth" and America's homeless youth.](#) *Journal of Human Trafficking*, 4(1), 89–91. DOI:10.1080/23322705.2018.1423450

Media representations of sex trafficking among homeless youth typically and needlessly contain sensationalized images and unsupported false statistics regarding the issue. One of those factoids: that runaway and homeless youth are likely to be trafficked for sex within 72 hours of leaving home is particularly pervasive despite being completely unfounded. This article tracks down the sources of this misinformation. Then, using a study of over 600 homeless youth conducted by Loyola University's Modern Slavery

Research Project, the article provides a more nuanced and survivor-centered portrait of the human trafficking – both sex and labor – that affects the homeless youth population.

Nichols, A. J., Gerassi, L. B., & Snider, K. (2018). What's in a name? Benefits and challenges of anti-trafficking language in social service provider perspective. *Journal of Human Trafficking*, 4(1), 73-85. DOI:10.1080/23322705.2018.1423448

The language used to address service populations involved in commercial sex is laden with meaning that impacts understandings of and responses to the issue. While debates over use of the terms sex trafficking, commercial sexual exploitation, sex work, and modern-day slavery are well established in the academic literature, relatively little of this work is derived from original research examining the perceptions and experiences of social service providers. Drawing from 21 interviews with social service providers working with populations involved in commercial sex in an urban Midwestern city, this study aims to examine social service providers' preferred use of terms in relationship to their work. This analysis concludes by offering recommendations for ways to best use language in social service provision in outreach, education, and awareness materials, to benefit those who have been trafficked, commercially sexually exploited, or are otherwise involved in the commercial sex industry.

O'Brien, J. E. (2018). ["Sometimes, somebody just needs somebody-anybody-to care:" The power of interpersonal relationships in the lives of domestic minor sex trafficking survivors.](#) *Child Abuse & Neglect*, 81, 1-11. DOI:10.1016/j.chiabu.2018.04.010

Domestic minor sex trafficking (DMST) is the recruitment, harboring, transportation, provision, or obtaining of U.S. minors for the purposes of a commercial sex act. DMST victims and survivors often become involved with state-level systems including the child welfare and/or juvenile justice systems. This study presents exploratory qualitative findings regarding the role of interpersonal relationships in the lives of system-involved

DMST survivors from the perspectives of DMST survivors. Results indicate survivors perceive interpersonal relationships as key to promoting risk, providing protection, and fostering resiliency over DMST. Findings from the current study not only provide a context for understanding the role of interpersonal relationships in the lives of DMST survivors but also point to directions for development of interventions targeted toward this population.

Okech, D., Choi, Y. J., Elkins, J., & Burns, A. C. (2018). [Seventeen years of human trafficking research in social work: A review of the literature](#). *Journal of Evidence Informed Social Work*, 15(2), 103–122. DOI:10.1080/23761407.2017.1415177

The trafficking of persons around the world is a serious violation of human rights and manifestation of social injustice. It disproportionately affects women and children worldwide. Given the values of the social work profession and the prevalence of trafficking, it is essential to understand the current literature on human trafficking in social work journals. Using the PRISMA method, this systematic review (n = 94 articles) of human trafficking in social work journals found the following: more focus on sex trafficking than other forms of trafficking; a lack of a clear conceptualization and definition on the entire spectrum of trafficking; a lack of evidence-informed empirical research to inform programs, practice, and policy; and a dearth of recommendations for social work education. Specific implications for social work policy, research, practice, and education are highlighted and discussed.

Powell, C., Asbill, M., Brew, S., & Stoklosa, H. (2018). [Human trafficking and HIPAA: What the health care professional needs to know](#). *Journal of Human Trafficking*, 4(2), 105–113. DOI:10.1080/23322705.2017.1285613

As health-care-professional awareness about human trafficking rises and clinicians recognize their role as first responders to human-trafficking victims, they are thrust into in a unique position at the intersection of health and law. Recent literature indicates that

health-care providers have a role to play, but some are reluctant to become engaged. One reason may be a lack of clarity about matters related to patient privacy as delineated by the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act. This article lays out key questions and answers, as well as a simple algorithm, to assist the United States-based health-care professional in caring for trafficked patients while complying with the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act. The article uses four case scenarios to illustrate real situations faced by clinicians when caring for potential human-trafficking patients followed by questions and answers and, where appropriate, quotes from the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act.

Powell, C., Asbill, M., Louis, E., & Stoklosa, H. (2018). [Identifying gaps in human trafficking mental health service provision](#). *Journal of Human Trafficking*, 4(3), 256-269.
DOI:10.1080/23322705.2017.1362936

Human trafficking is a global concern resulting in complex, long-lasting mental health consequences for survivors. The U.S. nongovernmental sector has emerged as a key service provider in facilitating and directly providing comprehensive services for survivors, including crucial mental health services. This study aimed to better understand barriers to and potential improvements for human trafficking survivor mental health service delivery by applying a deductive framework analysis to semi-structured interviews with 15 U.S.-based nongovernmental organizations. Analysis of interview data underscored key challenges, including extensive and complex human trafficking survivor mental health needs, limited service provider capacity, and a fragmented multisector response. Themes for strategies to improve mental health service delivery included improved multisector collaboration as well as increasing mental health professional capacity through human trafficking-specific training. Implications and recommendations to improve comprehensive, trauma-informed, and client-centered human trafficking survivor care, including future research directions, are discussed.

Rafferty, Y. (2018). [Mental health services as a vital component of psychosocial recovery for victims of child trafficking for commercial sexual exploitation](#). *American Journal of Orthopsychiatry*, 88(3), 249–260. DOI:10.1037/ort0000268

There has been a plethora of outcomes associated with child trafficking for commercial sexual exploitation; however little attention has been paid to how outcomes are addressed for children who are placed into residential aftercare recovery programs following their identification as victims. Field-based qualitative research was undertaken in South and Southeast Asia, and involved interviews with 213 representatives from U.N. and governmental agencies, nongovernmental organizations, and residential aftercare recovery programs. Findings highlight the mental health needs of child victims of trafficking for commercial sexual exploitation, describe the availability and quality of mental health services and supports in aftercare programs to address prevailing needs and repair the psychological damage caused by trafficking, and report on lessons learned pertaining to elements of good practice and related challenges associated with the availability and quality of mental health services and supports. It concludes by highlighting the implications of the findings for mental health policy and practice and offers suggestions for further research.

Reid, J. A. (2018). Sex trafficking of girls with intellectual disabilities: an exploratory mixed methods study. *Sexual Abuse*, 30(2), 107–131. DOI:10.1177/1079063216630981

Few researchers have examined sex trafficking of girls with intellectual disabilities (IDs). Drawing from 54 juvenile sex trafficking (JST) cases, this exploratory, mixed methods study compared 15 JST cases involving girls with ID with 39 JST cases involving girls without ID. Findings revealed a disproportionate risk for exploitation in JST for girls with ID, endangering circumstances creating vulnerability among this population, as well as the perpetrator–victim dynamics that complicate prevention and intervention. Complicating dynamics included victim lack of awareness of exploitation and its endangerments,

inability of victims to self-identify, and the relative ease with which traffickers manipulated these girls. The disproportionate risk faced by girls with ID substantiates the need for enhanced safeguards to prevent sexual exploitation of girls with ID including stiffer penalties for those who exploit and buy sex with youth with disabilities.

Sprang, G., & Cole, J. (2018). [Familial sex trafficking of minors: Trafficking conditions, clinical presentation, and system involvement.](#) *Journal of Family Violence*, 33(3), 185-195. DOI:10.1007/s10896-018-9950-y

It is well documented in the literature that child sex trafficking can be perpetrated by family members, though limited research has focused on describing this type of sexual exploitation. This pilot study addresses this gap by providing an analysis of familial sex trafficking considering trafficking dynamics, and rurality. Using a sample of 31 child welfare-involved children referred for behavioral health assessment and treatment, this mixed methods study explores: (1) victim and trafficker characteristics, the trafficking situation, law enforcement classifications of trafficking, clinical profiles of victims, and system involvement of children and youth involved in familial sex trafficking; (2) gender differences in clinical outcomes in sex-trafficked children; and (3) geographical differences in severity of the victimization experience. Major findings document high rates of family members trafficking children for illicit drugs; high severity of abuse as measured with the Sexual Abuse Severity Score, with higher severity of abuse for children living in rural communities; clinical threshold level scores on the Child Behavior Checklist (CBCL), and the Trauma Symptom Checklist for Children (TSCC-A). Boys and girls had similar clinical profiles except boys had higher CBCL externalizing scores, and females had higher TSCC depression scores. Additionally, more than half of the children in this sample had attempted suicide in their lifetime. This formative study sheds light on the phenomenon of familial sex trafficking, thereby creating the context for further investigations.

Implications for identification and effective responses to familial sex trafficking, with specific attention to gender and geography are discussed.

Adams, W., & Flynn, A. (2017). [Federal prosecution of commercial sexual exploitation of children cases, 2004-2013](https://bjs.ojp.gov/content/pub/pdf/fpcsecc0413.pdf). U.S. Department of Justice.
<https://bjs.ojp.gov/content/pub/pdf/fpcsecc0413.pdf>

Ahern, E. C., Sadler, L. A., Lamb, M. E., & Gariglietti, G. M. (2017). [Practitioner perspectives on child sexual exploitation: Rapport building with young people](#). *Journal of Child Sexual Abuse*, 26(1), 78-91. DOI:10.1080/10538712.2016.1257529

Young people suspected of being sexually exploited are unlikely to have made prior disclosures before being approached by authorities, and this can make them especially uncomfortable when involved in investigations. Semistructured interviews were conducted with frontline social workers and law enforcement practitioners about their experiences interacting with youth during child sexual exploitation investigations. The findings provided some tentative insights into the processes by which practitioners sought to establish rapport with young people who have been exploited and establish themselves as trustworthy abuse disclosure recipients. Practitioners reported that rapport building in child sexual exploitation cases not only occurred over lengthy periods of time (e.g., months or years) but also required repeated contacts between the practitioners and young people, during which practitioners minimized their roles as authorities and maximized their authenticity as caring people. Practitioners mentioned the importance of dependability, lightheartedness, and having a casual demeanor. Findings have implications for managing reluctance and understanding rapport building when working with possible victims.

Anderson, V. R., England, K., & Davidson, W. S. (2017). Juvenile court practitioners' construction of and response to sex trafficking of justice system involved girls. *Victims & Offenders*, 12(5), 663–681. DOI:10.1080/15564886.2016.1185753

The commercial sexual exploitation of children (CSEC) is a growing domestic health and policy concern. Exploited girls may be at heightened risk for entering the juvenile justice system. The purpose of this study was to explore the needs of CSEC victims and resources available for system-involved girls. The data from this study included semistructured interviews, case discussions, and residential placement meeting observations with juvenile justice personnel. Findings revealed labeling issues related to (1) how court workers construct female victims of CSEC through exploitation myths, (2) the importance of trauma history and relational contexts, and (3) system-level barriers. Recommendations for practice are discussed.

Berry, L. J., Tully, R. J., & Egan, V. (2017). A case study approach to reducing the risks of child sexual exploitation (CSE). *Journal of Child Sexual Abuse*, 26(7), 769–784. DOI:10.1080/10538712.2017.1360428

The risk of child sexual exploitation is a growing concern, both within community and child care settings. Within community services working with vulnerable young people, the risks of exploitation are pervasive and present a constant management problem for professionals. This makes the need for focused educational interventions within such settings all the more vital. This case study aims to describe the assessment, formulation, intervention, and outcomes of a young female considered to be at risk of sexual exploitation. It was hypothesised that, after completion of a psychoeducational group designed to enhance knowledge and skills around child sexual exploitation, positive outcomes would be seen in psychometric assessment, risk-taking behavior, and risk awareness. Results demonstrated no clinically significant change for measures of impulsivity, resourcefulness, or self-reported difficulties. A significant increase was seen for self-reported self-esteem, and all outcomes revealed a positive direction of change.

Observational accounts of behavioral and attitudinal change produced more positive results, revealing an increase in prosocial behaviors and a reduction in risk-taking behaviors. Outcomes are discussed in relation to the individual's history and the residential care environment. Implications for future research and practice are outlined, and the study limitations are considered.

Cohen, J. A., Mannarino, A. P., & Kinnish, K. (2017). [Trauma-focused cognitive behavioral therapy for commercially sexually exploited youth](#). *Journal of Child & Adolescent Trauma*, 10(2), 175-185. DOI:10.1007/s40653-015-0073-9

Commercially sexually exploited children and adolescents ("commercially exploited youth") present numerous clinical challenges that have led some mental health providers to question whether current evidence-based treatments are adequate to address the needs of this population. This paper 1) addresses commonalities between the trauma experiences, responses and treatment challenges of commercially exploited youth and those of youth with complex trauma; 2) highlights the importance of careful assessment to guide case conceptualization and treatment planning for commercially exploited youth; and 3) describes strategies for implementing Trauma- Focused Cognitive Behavioral Therapy for complex trauma specific to these youth.

Dubowitz, H. (2017). Child sexual abuse and exploitation—A global glimpse. *Child Abuse & Neglect*, 66, 2-8. DOI:10.1016/j.chiabu.2017.02.011

The view of what constitutes child abuse and neglect is dependent on the laws, cultural context, local thresholds and the availability. Since 1982, the International Society for the Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect (ISPCAN) has conducted surveillance of child maltreatment and child protection every two years, published in World Perspectives on Child Abuse. It is hoped that up to date information will inform the development of laws, policies

and programs to better address child abuse and neglect. This article is based on data on child sexual abuse and exploitation from 73 countries gathered online in 2015–16 for the 12 edition of World Perspectives. Respondents were key informants who were knowledgeable professionals in the child protection field. They were encouraged to consult with colleagues so as to provide accurate information. Countries were grouped into different regions of the world and into income level categories. The findings focus on definitions of abuse and neglect, laws, policies and programs to address and prevent maltreatment and barriers to prevention. It is evident that there is considerable variability across regions and country income categories, and that programs and services need to be considerably strengthened, even in high income countries.

Fedina, L., & DeForge, B. R. (2017). Estimating the trafficked population: Public-health research methodologies may be the answer. *Journal of Human Trafficking*, 3(1), 21–38. DOI:10.1080/23322705.2017.1280316

Inevitably, there are a great number of methodological challenges and limitations to estimating the extent of human trafficking, which are largely due to definitional issues and the hidden nature of the trafficked population. To date, most national and global estimates of the problem have been discredited for using flawed, nontransparent, or nonexistent research methods; however, researchers have previously suggested that methodologies from public health, including those used to estimate hidden and transient populations, might also be useful to estimate the trafficked population. Specifically, research design, sampling strategies, and measures commonly used to estimate hidden populations in public health research may hold promise for future human-trafficking studies, reducing bias and resulting in more narrow and precise range estimates of victims. This article presents examples of studies using public-health research methods to estimate various hidden and stigmatized populations (e.g., injection drug-users, homeless and runaway youth) and proposes a set of strategies that might be considered

for future prevalence studies on human trafficking. Recent prevalence studies on human trafficking that have successfully implemented public-health research methods, such as Respondent-Driven Sampling and Venue-Based Sampling, are also discussed.

Finkelhor, D., Vaquerano, J., & Stranski, M. (2017). [Sex trafficking of minors: How many juveniles are being prostituted in the US?](https://www.unh.edu/ccrc/sites/default/files/media/2022-03/sex-trafficking-of-minors-how-many-juveniles-are-being-prostituted-in-the-us.pdf) Crimes Against Children Research Center. <https://www.unh.edu/ccrc/sites/default/files/media/2022-03/sex-trafficking-of-minors-how-many-juveniles-are-being-prostituted-in-the-us.pdf>

Gerassi, L., Nichols, A., & Michelson, E. (2017). [Lessons learned: Benefits and challenges in interagency coalitions addressing sex trafficking and commercial sexual exploitation](#). *Journal of Human Trafficking*, 3(4), 285–302.
DOI:10.1080/23322705.2016.1260345

Over the last few decades, service providers and community members have organized and created interagency coalitions to address issues of sex trafficking. Such efforts include grassroots and government-funded coalitions, which typically provide education, training, and awareness about sex trafficking and encourage collaboration and coordinated services among community partners. However, the benefits and challenges of such coalitions within local contexts remains understudied. The current study draws from an inductive analysis of 24 interviews with coalition members representing 18 organizations in one Midwestern city whose service populations included those involved in commercial sex through trafficking, exploitation, or sex work. Findings suggest benefits of coalitions included increased service collaboration and heightened public awareness. Tensions revolved around conflicting viewpoints of commercial sex and competing service populations. Interrelated challenges also involved competition over funding, funding restrictions, and altered funding streams, which resulted in coalition fragmentation. Recommendations for community-based interagency coalitions to replicate benefits and to address tensions and challenges are provided.

Goldberg, A. P., Moore, J. L., Houck, C., Kaplan, D. M., & Barron, C. E. (2017). Domestic minor sex trafficking patients: A retrospective analysis of medical presentation. *Journal of Pediatric and Adolescent Gynecology*, 30(1), 109-115.
DOI:10.1016/j.jpbg.2016.08.010

The study objective was to describe the clinical characteristics of patients referred for domestic minor sex trafficking (DMST) to improve identification and intervention. Design: Retrospective cohort study. Setting: The Lawrence A. Aubin, Sr Child Protection Center at Hasbro Children's Hospital where patients are evaluated by child abuse pediatricians in outpatient, emergency department, and inpatient settings. Participants: A total of 41 patients younger than the age of 18 years referred for the evaluation of DMST involvement between August 1, 2013 and March 30, 2015. Interventions and Main Outcome We collected demographic, social-environmental, medical, and psychiatric variables from the medical records of patients referred for evaluation who have self-disclosed, been reported with evidence, and/or have histories that place them at high risk for DMST involvement. Children had frequent contact with medical providers, with 81% seen in the year before referral for DMST. Childhood maltreatment and family dysfunction were identified (sexual abuse, 21/37 or 57%; parental substance abuse, 22/37 or 60%) in the 41 patients. Children had medical problems (eg, sexually transmitted infection, 13/41 or 32%), psychiatric needs (eg, acute suicidality, 8/41 or 20%; at least 1 previous psychiatric admission, 19/41 or 46%), and substance use (36/41 or 88%). Although 26/41 (63%) had runaway and 17/41 (42%) lived in a group home placement, 28/41 (68%) currently lived at home and 29/41 (71%) presented with a parent/guardian or relative. Children referred for DMST present frequently to physicians and have complex medical and psychiatric needs. Medical providers' increased awareness of this health issue would inform victim identification and intervention.

Greenbaum, J., Bodrick, N., & Committee on Child Abuse and Neglect. (2017). [Global human trafficking and child victimization](#). *Pediatrics*, 140(6), e20173138. DOI:10.1542/peds.2017-3138

Trafficking of children for labor and sexual exploitation violates basic human rights and constitutes a major global public health problem. Pediatricians and other health care professionals may encounter victims who present with infections, injuries, posttraumatic stress disorder, suicidality, or a variety of other physical or behavioral health conditions. Preventing child trafficking, recognizing victimization, and intervening appropriately require a public health approach that incorporates rigorous research on the risk factors, health impact, and effective treatment options for child exploitation as well as implementation and evaluation of primary prevention programs. Health care professionals need training to recognize possible signs of exploitation and to intervene appropriately. They need to adopt a multidisciplinary, outward-focused approach to service provision, working with nonmedical professionals in the community to assist victims. Pediatricians also need to advocate for legislation and policies that promote child rights and victim services as well as those that address the social determinants of health, which influence the vulnerability to human trafficking. This policy statement outlines major issues regarding public policy, medical education, research, and collaboration in the area of child labor and sex trafficking and provides recommendations for future work.

Hartinger-Saunders, R. M., Trouteaud, A. R., & Matos Johnson, J. (2017). Mandated reporters' perceptions of and encounters with domestic minor sex trafficking of adolescent females in the United States. *American Journal of Orthopsychiatry*, 87(3), 195-205. DOI:10.1037/ort0000151

This is the first study to explore whether mandated reporters who work with adolescent females, ages 10 to 17, recognize domestic minor sex trafficking (DMST) and associated risk factors. Because mandated reporters are required by law to report child abuse,

neglect, and child exploitation, lack of specific DMST training or not believing DMST exists in communities continues to place young females at risk for revictimization. Results indicate that 60% of mandated reporters in the sample ($N = 577$) had no specific training on DMST. Furthermore, almost 25% of respondents did not believe DMST existed in their communities. Implications for practice are discussed.

Hopper, E. K. (2017). Polyvictimization and developmental trauma adaptations in sex trafficked youth. *Journal of Child & Adolescent Trauma*, 10(2), 161-173.
DOI:10.1007/s40653-016-0114-z

Human trafficking in children is often part of a larger constellation of childhood adversity. Many trafficked youth have been exposed to multiple layers of traumatic stress, including physical, sexual, and/or verbal abuse; witnessing violence; emotional neglect; and family dysfunction. This paper is a qualitative analysis of the charts of 32 youth who were sex trafficked as minors, including both foreign national and domestic youth. It explores their history of early adversity and poly-victimization and reviews common coercive strategies used by the traffickers, including manipulation of these children's unmet physical and emotional needs. It identifies developmental trauma adaptations in these youth, including affect dysregulation and impulsivity; alterations in attention and consciousness; issues in interpersonal relationships; and impairments in self-perception and attributions. It concludes with recommendations based on these findings, including the development of developmentally and culturally appropriate trauma-informed services for sex trafficked children and youth.

Landers, M., McGrath, K., Johnson, M. H., Armstrong, M. I., & Dollard, N. (2017). Baseline characteristics of dependent youth who have been commercially sexually exploited: Findings from a specialized treatment program. *Journal of Child Sexual Abuse*, 26(6), 692–709. DOI:10.1080/10538712.2017.1323814

Commercial sexual exploitation of children has emerged as a critical issue within child welfare, but little is currently known about this population or effective treatment approaches to address their unique needs. Children in foster care and runaways are reported to be vulnerable to exploitation because they frequently have unmet needs for family relationships, and they have had inadequate supervision and histories of trauma of which traffickers take advantage. The current article presents data on the demographic characteristics, trauma history, mental and behavioral health needs, physical health needs, and strengths collected on a sample of 87 commercially sexually exploited youth. These youth were served in a specialized treatment program in Miami-Dade County, Florida, for exploited youth involved with the child welfare system. Findings revealed that the youth in this study have high rates of previous sexual abuse (86% of the youth) and other traumatic experiences prior to their exploitation. Youth also exhibited considerable mental and behavioral health needs. Given that few programs emphasize the unique needs of children who have been sexually exploited, recommendations are offered for providing a continuum of specialized housing and treatment services to meet the needs of sexually exploited youth, based on the authors' experiences working with this population.

Litam, S. D. A., & Bach, J. E. (2017). "[Otis](#)": A case study of an online attempt to purchase children for sex. *Journal of Child Sexual Abuse*, 26(7), 806–817. DOI:10.1080/10538712.2017.1360427

The researchers analyzed court documents to develop a case study of an individual convicted of buying sexual services from exploited children. Findings indicate that the subject deviates from preexisting victim selection processes and demonstrates

characteristics inconsistent with existing sexual offender typologies that likens offender behaviors to the hunting techniques and behaviors of predatory animals. As evidenced in the case study, the individual perceived the victims solely as a means of deviant sexual satiation and did not participate in traditionally established victim acquisition techniques. In addition, the researchers propose adopting terminology that adheres to the term consumer rather than buyer as it better represents some offenders' disconnect and lack of empathy in the victim acquisition process.

Miller-Perrin, C., & Wurtele, S. K. (2017). [Sex trafficking and the commercial sexual exploitation of children](#). *Women & Therapy*, 40(1-2), 123-151.
DOI:10.1080/02703149.2016.1210963

In recent years, the problem of child sex trafficking has become a topic of international discussion and concern. Child sex trafficking can include many forms of commercial sexual exploitation such as prostitution, pornography, and child sex tourism. Children who fall prey to these forms of sexual exploitation are of particular concern because of their vulnerable status and the impact these experiences have on their development. This article provides a comprehensive review about what is currently known about child sex trafficking by examining definitions, estimates of the problem, child risk factors and consequences, and approaches to protection, prosecution, promotion of recovery and reintegration, and partnerships for promoting collaboration and cooperation.

Mitchell, K., Moynihan, M., Pitcher, C., Francis, A., English, A., & Saewyc, E. (2017). [Rethinking research on sexual exploitation of boys: Methodological challenges and recommendations to optimize future knowledge generation](#). *Child Abuse & Neglect*, 66, 142-151. DOI:10.1016/j.chiabu.2017.01.019

Research and policies on child and adolescent sexual exploitation frequently focus on the sexual exploitation of girls and fail to recognize the experiences of sexually exploited boys,

including their potentially unique health care and social support needs. This oversight limits the ability of health care and social service providers to offer both targeted and evidence informed care to sexually exploited boys. As a first step in a larger grant to understand the experiences of sexually exploited boys and to develop interventions for this specific population, we conducted a systematic review to address the question, “What is the state of the research on sexually exploited boys internationally?” As we undertook this review, we faced a number of significant challenges that made the process more difficult than anticipated. In this paper we discuss four key methodological challenges we encountered: lack of a consistent definition of child and adolescent sexual exploitation, difficulties in differentiating sexual exploitation as a specific concept within child sexual abuse, failure to disaggregate data usefully across multiple variables, and limited epidemiological studies to inform prevalence. We reflect on how these challenges limited our ability to systematically analyze, synthesize, and interpret the available research. We conclude by making recommendations to improve the state of the research regarding sexually exploited boys with the aim of better informing future policy and practice.

Naramore, R., Bright, M. A., Epps, N., & Hardt, N. S. (2017). [Youth arrested for trading sex have the highest rates of childhood adversity: A statewide study of juvenile offenders](#). *Sexual Abuse*, 29(4), 396–410. DOI:10.1177/1079063215603064

A history of childhood adversity is associated with high-risk behaviors and criminal activity in both adolescents and adults. Furthermore, individuals with histories of child maltreatment are at higher risk for engaging in risky sexual behavior, experiencing revictimization, and in some cases, becoming sexual offenders. The purpose of the current study was to examine the prevalence of individual and cumulative adverse childhood experiences (ACEs) reported by 102 offending youth who were arrested for trading sex and 64,227 offending youth who were arrested for various other crimes, using Florida’s

Positive Achievement Change Tool. Youth with violations related to sex trafficking had higher rates for each ACE as well as number of ACEs, particularly sexual abuse and physical neglect. These findings have implications for identifying adverse experiences in both maltreated and offending youth as well as tailoring services to prevent re-victimization.

O'Brien, J. E., White, K., & Rizo, C. F. (2017). Domestic minor sex trafficking among child welfare-involved youth: An exploratory study of correlates. *Child Maltreatment*, 22(3), 265–274. DOI:10.1177/1077559517709995

Our research team used the National Survey of Child and Adolescent Well-Being II to explore relationships between demographic factors, domestic minor sex trafficking (DMST) status, and several psychosocial dependent variables for children and youth in the child welfare system who affirm that they have been paid for sex within the past 6 months. The sample included a total of 814 children and youth, 38 of whom reported DMST victimization. Results revealed that youth with a history of DMST victimization were more likely than their nonexploited peers to report runaway behavior, demonstrate externalizing behaviors, and test in the clinical range for a substance abuse problem. Research and practice implications are discussed.

Perkins, E. B., & Ruiz, C. (2017). Domestic minor sex trafficking in a rural state: Interviews with adjudicated female juveniles. *Child and Adolescent Social Work Journal*, 34(2), 171–180. DOI:10.1007/s10560-016-0455-3

Domestic minor sex trafficking (DMST) is defined as the “recruitment, harboring, transportation, provision, or obtaining of a person for the purpose of a commercial sex act” (TVPA, 2000) where the person is a citizen of the U.S. and under age 18 years. The purpose of this study was to gain a more informed understanding of the scope of the problem of DMST for adjudicated juvenile females, to identify factors associated with

DMST for this vulnerable population, and enhance our understanding of the pathways in and out of DMST from the victims' perspective (especially rural vs. urban). Qualitative interviews were conducted with 40 adjudicated juvenile females in a southern, rural state. Results indicate a significant number of adjudicated female youth are engaged in sex trafficking, often to obtain drugs, and that a significant number feel forced to perform sex acts in exchange for drugs and/or for a place to sleep which is also highly correlated with being a victim of sexual abuse. Early intervention for juvenile females who fit the noted vulnerabilities needs to be implemented in time to prevent our youth from being victimized. Suggestions for future research are addressed.

Roby, J. L., & Vincent, M. (2017). Federal and state responses to domestic minor sex trafficking: The evolution of policy. *Social Work, 62*(3), 201-210.
DOI:10.1093/sw/swx026

Domestic minor sex trafficking (DMST) is a rapidly growing problem in the United States, yet legislative efforts to address victim needs have begun only recently. DMST is an issue that spans several areas of social work practice, as emerging research shows that most children and youths exploited in commercial sex have typically experienced prior abuse, neglect, or other forms of trauma. Many have been involved with the child welfare and juvenile justice systems and are often lured by promises of love, security, protection, and belonging. Policy development to address DMST is still relatively new and evolving at both federal and state levels, but the general trend is to recognize such minors as victims rather than perpetrators of sex crimes. In this article the authors trace the development of legislation addressing DMST at the federal and state levels, with a particular focus on states' "safe harbor laws" that provide limited or total criminal immunity and a varying range of services to victims. Although space limitation precludes a detailed discussion of specific state laws, comparative analysis of representative provisions are discussed, highlighting social work application and further policy and research implications.

Todres, J. (2017). [Physician encounters with human trafficking: Legal consequences and ethical considerations](#). (Commentary). *AMA Journal of Ethics*, 19(1), 16–22. DOI:10.1001/journalofethics.2017.19.1.ecas2-1701.

There is growing recognition and evidence that health care professionals regularly encounter—though they may not identify—victims of human trafficking in a variety of health care settings. Identifying and responding appropriately to trafficking victims or survivors requires not only training in trauma-informed care but also consideration of the legal and ethical issues that arise when serving this vulnerable population. This essay examines three areas of law that are relevant to this case scenario: criminal law, with a focus on conspiracy; service provider regulations, with a focus on mandatory reporting laws; and human rights law. In addition to imposing a legal mandate, the law can inform ethical considerations about how health care professionals should respond to human trafficking.

Andretta, J. R., Woodland, M. H., Watkins, K. M., & Barnes, M. E. (2016). [Towards the discreet identification of Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children \(CSEC\) victims and individualized interventions: Science to practice](#). *Psychology, Public Policy, and Law*, 22(3), 260–270. DOI:10.1037/law0000087

The purpose of the present study was to build on the extant Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children (CSEC) screening options available for use in the juvenile justice system, where screenings must be brief, objective, and nonintrusive. Our goal was not to develop a system to identify CSEC victims, but instead to objectively discern CSEC risk in youth to be further examined through a referral process. Risk factors or indicators of risk for CSEC victimization have been proposed, and used to develop semistructured interviews intended to inform clinical judgments. We propose an objective, quantitative decision-making system for determining CSEC risk called the Sex-Trafficking Assessment Review (STAR © 2015 District of Columbia Courts). Participants included 901 youth (95.34% African American; 45.17% female; *Mean age* = 15.44, *SD* = 1.50) arrested in Washington, DC.

A codebook was developed to aid scoring of STAR items, and kappa interrater reliability coefficients were developed to assure adequate agreement in STAR scores among screeners. An Item Response Theory (IRT) model was applied to STAR scores, and 3 CSEC risk statuses were identified: (a) High Risk, (b) Moderate Risk, and (c) Low Risk. Consistent with the CSEC literature, STAR statuses were associated with depression and other clinical symptoms as well as perceptions and attributions known to be common in sexual abuse victims. Also in keeping with theory, STAR statuses were associated with gender, but not age. Results are discussed in the context of service provision in a juvenile court system, including the implementation of the STAR.

West, A. (2017). Child trafficking and child welfare. *Journal of Human Trafficking*, 3(2), 125–135. DOI:10.1080/23322705.2016.1175046

The purpose of this article is to gain an increased understanding of the role of child welfare in relation to the child-trafficking population. Fifteen service providers, from multidisciplinary backgrounds, working in the community with victims of child trafficking were interviewed through individual, semi-structured interviews. Exploratory in nature, this study employed a phenomenological methodology. The coding and analysis of data was conducted through Atlas.ti. The findings in this study suggest that there are barriers between service providers and the child welfare system that are experienced in a lack of identification of victims and in the areas of collaboration and funding of services. Recommendations for practice, policy, and research include transparency, education between system and community, shared input in case decision making, and future exploration of the experiences of caseworkers.

Baca, A. L., & Lopez, M. M. (2016). [Law enforcements perceptions regarding domestic minor sex trafficking and the involvement of social workers in these cases](#) (Publication No. 343) [Master's thesis, California State University, San Bernardino]. CSUSB ScholarWorks.

Domestic minor sex trafficking (DMST) is a significant issue that affects children, families, and communities throughout the United States. Due to the illegal nature of the problem, it is difficult for law enforcement to identify victims of DMST and when they are identified it is challenging to provide them with services. Because law enforcement often encounter DMST victims through first response calls or within juvenile hall, it is important to understand the collaboration efforts between social workers and law enforcement in order to provide effective services for this population. Therefore, the purpose of this study is to gain an understanding of the perceptions of law enforcement officers regarding the involvement of social workers in DMST cases. This study used a qualitative design by collecting data through face-to-face interviews with 10 law enforcement officers from Los Angeles County and San Bernardino County. This design allowed participants the opportunity to provide a more in-depth explanation regarding the involvement of social workers in DMST cases. The study found that there is a need for social workers to collaborate with law enforcement agencies to provide and advocate for services for victims of DMST. The study also indicated the need for transitional housing or other placement options for youth because the current alternative is incarceration.

Barnert, E. S., Abrams, S., Azzi, V. F., Ryan, G., Brook, R., & Chung, P. J. (2016). Identifying best practices for "Safe Harbor" legislation to protect child sex trafficking victims: Decriminalization alone is not sufficient. *Child Abuse & Neglect*, 51, 249-262. DOI:10.1016/j.chiabu.2015.10.002

Several states have recently enacted "Safe Harbor" laws to redirect child victims of commercial sexual exploitation and child sex trafficking from the criminal justice system and into the child welfare system. No comprehensive studies of Safe Harbor law

implementation exist. The nine state Safe Harbor laws enacted by 2012 were analyzed to guide state legislators, health professionals, law enforcement agents, child welfare providers, and other responders to the commercial sexual exploitation of children on the development and implementation of state Safe Harbor laws. The authors conducted 32 semi-structured interviews with Safe Harbor experts in these states. Participants conveyed that Safe Harbor legislation signified a critical paradigm shift, treating commercially sexually exploited youth not as criminals but as vulnerable children in need of services. However, Safe Harbor legislation varied widely and significant gaps in laws exist. Such laws alone were considered insufficient without adequate funding for necessary services. As a result, many well-meaning providers were going around the Safe Harbor laws by continuing to incarcerate commercially sexually exploited youth in the juvenile justice system regardless of Safe Harbor laws in place. This was done, to act, in their view, in what was the best interest of the victimized children. With imperfect laws and implementation, these findings suggest an important role for local and state responders to act together to protect victims from unnecessary criminalization and potential further traumatization. Published by Elsevier Ltd.

Bouche, V., Farrell, A., & Wittner, D. (2016). [Identifying effective counter-trafficking programs and practices in the U.S.: Legislative, legal, and public opinion strategies that work](https://www.ojp.gov/pdffiles1/nij/grants/249670.pdf). U.S. Department of Justice.
<https://www.ojp.gov/pdffiles1/nij/grants/249670.pdf>

After more than a decade of sustained efforts to combat human trafficking in the United States, it is necessary to step back and examine the effectiveness of key anti-trafficking strategies. Utilizing a multi-method approach, we examine 1) the effectiveness of state-level human trafficking legislation to determine what specific legislative provisions are most effective for obtaining desired outcomes, 2) the characteristics of state prosecutions for human trafficking offenses to determine how state laws are being used to hold offenders accountable, and 3) what the public knows about human trafficking,

why the public holds the beliefs that they do, and what the public expects from government anti-trafficking efforts. Together the three parts of the study inform efforts to develop effective counter-trafficking programs and practices for legislators, law enforcement, the courts, anti-trafficking agencies, and the public.

Cole, J., Sprang, G., Lee, R., & Cohen, J. (2016). [The trauma of commercial sexual exploitation of youth: A comparison of CSE victims to sexual abuse victims in a clinical sample](#). *Journal of Interpersonal Violence*, 31(1), 122-146.
DOI:10.1177/0886260514555133

This study examined the demographic features, trauma profiles, clinical severity indicators, problem behaviors, and service utilization characteristics of youth victims of commercial sexual exploitation (CSE) compared with a matched sample of sexually abused/assaulted youth who were not exploited in commercial sex. Secondary data analysis and propensity score matching were used to select a sample of 215 help-seeking youth who were exploited in prostitution ($n = 43$) or who were sexually abused/assaulted but not exploited in prostitution ($n = 172$) from the National Child Traumatic Stress Network Core Data Set (NCTSN CDS). Propensity Score Matching was used to select a comparison sample based on age, race, ethnicity, and primary residence. Statistically significant differences were noted between the groups on standardized (e.g., UCLA Posttraumatic Stress Disorder Reaction Index [PTSD-RI], Child Behavior Checklist [CBCL]) and other measures of emotional and behavioral problems (e.g., avoidance and hyperarousal symptoms, dissociation, truancy, running away, conduct disorder, sexualized behaviors, and substance abuse). This study provides useful insight into the symptom and service utilization profiles of youth exploited in commercial sex as compared with youth with other types of sexually exploitive experiences. Targeted screening and event-sensitive measures are recommended to more accurately identify youth exploited in commercial sex. More research is needed to determine if and what modifications to

trauma therapies may be required to address the more severe symptomatology and behavior problems associated with youth exploited in commercial sex.

Cunningham, K. C., & Cromer, L. D. (2016). [Attitudes about human trafficking: Individual differences related to belief and victim blame](#). *Journal of Interpersonal Violence*, 31(2), 228–244. DOI:10.1177/0886260514555369

Human trafficking is believed to oppress millions of people worldwide. Despite increased media attention and public awareness campaigns in recent years, no empirical research has examined public attitudes about human trafficking. The present study examined gender, sexual trauma history, and attitudes about human trafficking as they related to belief of a sex-trafficking scenario and willingness to blame the victim for the situation. Undergraduate students ($N = 409$) at a large private university in the Northeastern United States completed measures in which they responded to a vignette portraying sex trafficking in the United States. Participants also reported their personal trauma history and completed a Human Trafficking Myths Scale. Results indicated that gender and human trafficking myth acceptance, but not sexual trauma history, were significantly related to participants' belief of the sex-trafficking scenario and their perception of the victim's responsibility. Potential implications and directions for future research are discussed.

Gotch, K. (2016). Preliminary data on a sample of perpetrators of domestic trafficking for sexual exploitation: Suggestions for research and practice. *Journal of Human Trafficking*, 2(1), 99–109. DOI:10.1080/23322705.2016.1136539

Trafficking for sexual exploitation is one aspect of human trafficking and, in recent years, there has been an increased awareness of and focus on domestic trafficking for sexual exploitation within the United States; however, very little is known about the psychological characteristics or criminogenic (i.e., causing or likely to cause criminal behavior)

risk/need factors of the perpetrators who profit from domestic trafficking for sexual exploitation. In an attempt to expand the scope of known data on perpetrators of domestic trafficking for sexual exploitation, descriptive statistical analyses looking at factors hypothesized to be related to the psychological characteristics, criminogenic risk/need factors, and potential treatment interventions were conducted on a sample of 28 adult male offenders with an arrest, charge, and/or conviction of street-level domestic trafficking for sexual exploitation behavior in their history. The results provide preliminary data regarding the developmental/environmental factors, psychological characteristics, and criminogenic risk/need factors of this offender population, as well as support the hypothesis that perpetrators of domestic trafficking for sexual exploitation behavior appear to be a unique offender population requiring specialized management and therapeutic interventions. Suggestions and implications for practice and research are also provided.

Mapp, S., Hornung, E., D'Almeida, M., & Juhnke, J. (2016). [Local law enforcement officers' knowledge of human trafficking: Ability to define, identify, and assist](#). *Journal of Human Trafficking*, 2(4), 329–342. DOI:10.1080/23322705.2016.1143764

Local law enforcement officers have been identified as key figures in the fight against human trafficking, yet training has lagged, and their preparation to fulfill this role is unknown. Thus, 175 U.S. local law enforcement officers completed a survey assessing their ability to define human trafficking and to identify and assist its survivors. Approximately 17% of officers reported receiving training on human trafficking, while two thirds relied on mass media for information about human trafficking. Answers indicated confusion between human smuggling and human trafficking and a lack of knowledge of the elements of trafficking and who potential victims are. A substantial minority struggled to identify signs that a person might be a survivor of human trafficking and methods for intervention. Having received training and receiving information on trafficking from an

official source significantly increased officers' knowledge base. These results strongly support the need for formal training of local law enforcement officers and provision of knowledge from law enforcement sources in order to be able to effectively combat human trafficking.

Marcus, A., Sanson, J., Horning, A., Thompson, E., & Curtis, R. (2016). Pimping and profitability: Testing the economics of trafficking in street sex markets in Atlantic City, New Jersey. *Sociological Perspectives*, 59(1), 46-65.
DOI:10.1177/0731121416628552

Human trafficking has been identified as the second or third most profitable illicit business on the planet. Underlying these claims and billions of dollars in policy funding since the 1990s is an economics of human trafficking built heavily on two assumptions. The first is that nonconsensual labor is more profitable than consensual labor with minors being particularly profitable due to their ubiquity and inability to effectively consent. The second is that, unlike illicit narcotic and weapons sales, human trafficking involves a uniquely renewable and nearly limitless source of profit. This article uses empirical data collected from street sex markets in Atlantic City, New Jersey in 2010–2012 to test some of the assumptions of the economics of human trafficking and puts particular focus on U.S.-based domestic minor sex trafficking by exploring market practices and understandings of young sex workers and pimps/third parties who have opportunities to benefit from the sexual labor of minors. Consistent with broader literature by economic historians and labor process scholars, findings do not support the assumptions of trafficking economics, suggesting the need for trafficking economists and policymakers to give more consideration to local political economies of sex in the design of antitrafficking policy.

Miller, C. L., Duke, G., & Northam, S. (2016). [Child sex-trafficking recognition, intervention, and referral: an educational framework for the development of health care provider education programs](#). *Journal of Human Trafficking*, 2(3), 177–200.
DOI:10.1080/23322705.2015.1133990

The purpose of this Delphi study was to obtain consensus among an international, multidisciplinary panel of child sex-trafficking experts and child sex-trafficking survivors on the most important elements needed in a comprehensive, interdisciplinary health-care-provider education program on the recognition, intervention, and referral of child sex-trafficking victims and survivors. A two-round Delphi method was utilized to identify the most important elements of a child sex-trafficking health-care-provider education program. A content validity index score was utilized to determine consensus and order importance of each element. Eight content areas including 63 subcontent areas were identified by an international panel of 23 subject-matter experts representing clinical professions, law enforcement, academia, and community support organizations as important for inclusion in comprehensive health-care-provider education programs. Three content areas and 19 subcontent areas were identified by 10 survivors as important for inclusion in comprehensive health-care-provider education programs. The Individual Content Validity Index (I-CVI) was utilized to determine consensus and rank importance. The findings of this Delphi study provide the first scientifically based framework to guide the development of comprehensive, interdisciplinary education programs for health care providers on the recognition, intervention, and treatment and referral of child sex-trafficking victims and survivors. The use of the I-CVI allows the program developer to tailor the education-program components to the time and scope of the program under development.

Rafferty, Y. (2016). [Challenges to the rapid identification of children who have been trafficked for commercial sexual exploitation](#). *Child Abuse & Neglect*, 52, 158–168. DOI:10.1016/j.chiabu.2015.11.015

Child trafficking for commercial sexual exploitation (CSE) is a complex phenomenon, requiring multifaceted programs and policies by various stakeholders. A number of publications have focused on preventing this heinous crime. Less attention, however, has been paid to the recovery and rehabilitation of children who have been traumatized as a result of being trafficked for CSE. This article focuses on the first step in the protection and recovery process, which is to ensure that procedures are in place for their identification, so that they might access timely and appropriate assistance. It highlights three situational and two child-related challenges to identification. In addition, it describes the additional victimization experienced by children who are wrongly arrested for crimes associated with prostitution or illegal border crossings, rather than being identified as victims. An extensive literature review was conducted, and included academic publications, as well as government and non-governmental reports. In addition, field-based qualitative research was undertaken in South and Southeast Asia, and involved interviews with representatives from United Nations and governmental agencies, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), and aftercare recovery programs.

Sapiro, B., Johnson, L., Postmus, J. L., & Simmel, C. (2016). [Supporting youth involved in domestic minor sex trafficking: Divergent perspectives on youth agency](#). *Child Abuse & Neglect*, 58, 99–110. DOI:10.1016/j.chiabu.2016.06.019

Domestic-minor sex trafficking (DMST) continues to affect youth in the United States; however, lack of empirical evidence for interventions and the complex sociopolitical discourses surrounding sex trafficking and the commercial sexual exploitation of children (CSEC) hamper delivery of effective services to this population. To explore perspectives on best practices with these young people, 20 in-depth interviews were conducted with key stakeholders whose work provides them with a unique vantage point on the needs

and experiences of survivors of DMST in New Jersey. Notes from interviews were coded and analyzed for emergent themes. While key stakeholders generally agreed on best practices, there were several important areas of dispute that emerged regarding how best to serve youth involved in DMST, specifically with regard to youth running away from services, models of service provision, and the use of technology by these youth. Findings suggest that professionals from diverse backgrounds may disagree about the extent to which youth involved in DMST possess agency in their decision-making capacities as adolescents. This study explores these areas of dispute, and discusses the implications for the many different professionals and systems that must work together in providing services to this population.

Shandro, J., Chisolm-Straker, M., Duber, H. C., Findlay, S. L., Munoz, J., Schmitz, G., Stanzer, M., Stoklosa, H., Weiner, D. E., & Wingkun, N. (2016). [Human trafficking: A guide to identification and approach for the emergency physician](#). *Annals of Emergency Medicine*, 68(4), 501-508. DOI:10.1016/j.annemergmed.2016.03.049

Human trafficking is a significant human rights problem that is often associated with psychological and physical violence. There is no demographic that is spared from human trafficking. Traffickers maintain control of victims through physical, sexual, and emotional violence and manipulation. Because victims of trafficking seek medical attention for the medical and psychological consequences of assault and neglected health conditions, emergency clinicians are in a unique position to recognize victims and intervene. Evaluation of possible trafficking victims is challenging because patients who have been exploited rarely self-identify. This article outlines the clinical approach to the identification and treatment of a potential victim of human trafficking in the emergency department. Emergency practitioners should maintain a high index of suspicion when evaluating patients who appear to be at risk for abuse and violence, and assess for specific indicators of trafficking. Potential victims should be evaluated with a multidisciplinary and patient-centered technique. Furthermore, emergency practitioners should be aware of

national and local resources to guide the approach to helping identified victims. Having established protocols for victim identification, care, and referrals can greatly facilitate health care providers' assisting this population.

Wachter, K., Cook Heffron, L., Busch-Armendariz, N. B., Nsonwu, M. B., Kammer-Kerwick, M., Kellison, B., Jones, A. L. E., & Sanders, G. M. (2016). [Responding to domestic minor sex trafficking \(DMST\): Developing principle-based practices](#). *Journal of Human Trafficking*, 2(4), 259–271. DOI:10.1080/23322705.2016.1145489

Over the last decade, modern slavery has emerged as a major social-justice issue. Many new organizations in the United States have begun serving survivors of domestic minor sex trafficking (DMST), while others have expanded their services to include this vulnerable population in their mission. This qualitative study describes the principle-based practices that emerged from structured interviews with staff employed at five well-established organizations in the United States whose missions include providing direct services to DMST survivors. Thematic analysis identified five guiding principle-based practices for working with DMST survivors: nurture the humanity and dignity of clients; contextualize the needs of survivors within a broader social-justice framework; prioritize the immediate and practical needs of clients; support of the dynamic nature of survivors' healing; help identify and engage community and professional partners who are essential to the work of serving DMST survivors and ending sex trafficking. This research enhances the field's understanding of principle-based practice with DMST survivors and encourages those working with DMST survivors to critically consider the principles behind their practice. The findings are particularly important given complex vulnerabilities and needs, and the significant rise in the number of untrained organizations providing services to survivors.

Duger, A. (2015). [Focusing on prevention: The social and economic rights of children vulnerable to sex trafficking](#). *Health & Human Rights: An International Journal*, 17(1), 114-123.

The commercial sexual exploitation of children (“CSEC”) is an egregious human rights and public health violation that occurs every day across the US. Although there has been positive change in the US to bring attention to CSEC and to reform laws and policies to assist CSEC victims, scant attention and resources have been dedicated to prevention efforts. This paper critiques current US strategies to address CSEC and highlights the limitations of an interventionist framework that narrows its focus to anti-trafficking efforts. As an alternative, the paper proposes a human rights-based approach focusing on the fulfillment of economic and social rights of children as a prevention strategy in the US.

Edinburgh, L., Pape-Blabolil, J., Harpin, S. B., & Saewyc, E. (2015). [Assessing exploitation experiences of girls and boys seen at a child advocacy center](#). *Child Abuse & Neglect*, 46, 47-59. DOI:10.1016/j.chiabu.2015.04.016

Sexual exploitation is a severe form of child abuse that has profound effects on the immediate and long-term physical and mental health of youth. In this paper, sexual exploitation is defined as the exchange of sex for some type of consideration, including but not limited to: money, housing, food, clothes, transportation or a mobile phone. Exact numbers of sexually exploited youth are difficult to estimate (Stransky and Finkelhor, 2008) but given the number of youth who endorse having exchanged sex for goods in surveys of homeless youth and in school-based surveys (Saewyc, Drozda, Rivers, MacKay, & Peled, 2013), more information is needed regarding the context in which youth are first exploited, their exploitation experiences, co-occurring risk behaviors, and trauma symptoms. Child Advocacy Centers are one setting where youth who have been exploited can be interviewed, identified and receive comprehensive health care.

Fedina, L. (2015). [Use and misuse of research in books on sex trafficking implications for interdisciplinary researchers, practitioners, and advocates](#). *Trauma, Violence, & Abuse*, 16(2), 188–198. DOI:10.1177/1524838014523337

Recent articles have raised important questions about the validity of prevalence data on human trafficking, exposing flawed methodologies behind frequently cited statistics. While considerable evidence points to the fact that human trafficking does exist in the United States and abroad, many sources of literature continue to cite flawed data and some misuse research in ways that seemingly inflate the problem, which can have serious implications for anti-trafficking efforts, including victim services and anti-trafficking legislation and policy. This systematic review reports on the prevalence data used in 42 recently published books on sex trafficking to determine the extent to which published books rely on data estimates and just how they use or misuse existing data. The findings from this review reveal that the vast majority of published books do rely on existing data that were not rigorously produced and therefore may be misleading or at minimum, inaccurate. Implications for practice, research, and policy are discussed, as well as recommendations for future prevalence studies on human trafficking.

Finklea, K., Fernandes-Alcantara, A. L., & Siskin A. (2015). [Sex trafficking of children in the United States: Overview and issues for Congress](#). CRS Report No. R41878, Congressional Research Service. <https://sgp.fas.org/crs/misc/R41878.pdf>

Gibbs, D. A., Walters, J. L. H., Lutnick, A., Miller, S., & Kluckman, M. (2015). [Services to domestic minor victims of sex trafficking: Opportunities for engagement and support](#). *Children and Youth Services Review*, 54, 1–7.
DOI:10.1016/j.childyouth.2015.04.003

Human trafficking of young people is a social problem of growing concern. This paper reports selected findings from an evaluation of three programs serving domestic minor victims of human trafficking. Participants in this study were funded to identify and serve

male and female victims of sex or labor trafficking who were less than 18 years old and were U.S. citizens or lawful permanent residents. Programs provided case management and comprehensive services, either directly or through community collaboration. Evaluation data included data on client characteristics, service needs and services delivered; key informant interviews with program staff and partner agencies; and case narrative interviews in which program staff provided in-depth descriptions of clients' histories. All clients served were known or believed to be sex trafficked. The majority of clients needed crisis intervention, safety planning, educational support, mental health services, and employment services. Although they were diverse in terms of demographics and circumstances, two common patterns were of homeless young people exchanging sex to meet survival needs and young people were emotionally engaged with their trafficker. Key findings include the diversity of trafficked minors, the challenge of initial and continued engagement with service delivery, the structural and resource barriers to long-term support for young people, and the potential contribution of programs specifically addressing trafficked minors. A framework linking services to young people's circumstances and outcome areas is proposed.

Orme, J., & Ross-Sheriff, F. (2015). [Sex trafficking: Policies, programs, and services](#). *Social Work, 60*(4), 287-294. DOI:10.1093/sw/swv031

Sex trafficking (ST), a contemporary form of female slavery, is a human rights issue of critical concern to social work. The global response to ST has been substantial, and 166 countries have adopted anti-ST legislation. Despite considerable efforts to combat ST, the magnitude is increasing. To date, the majority of anti-ST efforts have focused on criminalization policies that target traffickers or purchasers of sexual services, who are predominantly male; prevention programming and services for predominantly female victims have received less support. Therapeutic services to assist pornography addicts and purchasers of sexual services are also necessary. In this article, authors examine

current anti-ST policies, programs, and services, both domestically and globally, and present an innovative paradigm that addresses social inequities and emphasizes prevention programming. They conclude with a discussion of the paradigm's implications for social work policies, practices, and services.

Rigby, P., & Whyte, B. (2015). Children's narrative within a multi-centred, dynamic ecological framework of assessment and planning for child trafficking. *British Journal of Social Work*, 45(1), 34-51. DOI:10.1093/bjsw/bct105

An ecological approach to understanding child abuse and working with separated children are not new concepts. This paper proposes a dynamic development of the model for use by front line practitioners that takes account of the movement and exploitation of children caught up in child trafficking, while recognising the primacy of children's narratives when information is difficult to obtain. Adopting a holistic planning and assessment approach utilising dynamic life story work addresses the realities of children's lives as they move around, with the potential for numerous social contacts and influences in home, transit and destination countries. The model recognises not only the physical journey and exploitation of the child, but also their emotional and psychological journey through exploitation and abuse, hopefully, towards healthy and safe outcomes. While such a model recognises the complexities of the lives of children on the move who have been trafficked, its major drawback for professionals is its complexity and the difficulty of obtaining, and making sense of information from the potentially numerous countries, situations and people children have encountered.

Roe-Sepowitz, D. E., Gallagher, J., Risinger, M., & Hickie, K. (2015). [The sexual exploitation of girls in the United States: The role of female pimps](#). *Journal of Interpersonal Violence*, 30(16), 2814–2830. DOI:10.1177/0886260514554292

The role of women in the sex trafficking of minors in the United States has received limited research attention. Case study analysis of 49 female pimps from federal, state and local cases were analyzed to explore if there were differences in the penalties given to females when compared to their male co-defendants, and cross-case analysis was conducted to identify themes that represent female pimp typologies. Both prison sentence and probation sentences were significantly lower for female co-defendants when compared to their male co-defendant. Five discrete typologies were developed including: Bottom, Madam/Business partner, Family, Girilla, and Handler. Each of these had unique features regarding violence towards their minor victims, co-defendants, actions during the sexual exploitation of the minor and sentencing outcomes. Implications for practice and future research were recommended.

Salisbury, E. J., Dabney, J. D., & Russell, K. (2015). [Diverting victims of commercial sexual exploitation from juvenile detention: Development of the InterCSECT screening protocol](#). *Journal of Interpersonal Violence*, 30(7), 1247–1276. DOI:10.1177/0886260514539846

Identifying victims of commercial sexual exploitation in the juvenile justice system is a challenging complexity requiring concerted organizational commitment. Using a three-tiered, trauma-informed screening process, a 3½-month pilot intervention was implemented in Clark County Juvenile Court (Washington) to identify victims in an effort to connect them to community youth advocates and sexual assault resources. A total of 535 boys and girls ages 9 to 19 were screened during intake; 47 of these youth reported risk factors associated with commercial sexual exploitation of children (CSEC) and were subsequently referred to community advocates. Six youth (all girls) were confirmed CSEC victims and were successfully diverted from juvenile detention. Study results suggest that

despite the lack of reliable data surrounding the prevalence of CSEC, juvenile justice agencies need to become educated on the risk factors to triage victims to services.

Varma, S., Gillespie, S., McCracken, C., & Greenbaum, V. J. (2015). [Characteristics of child commercial sexual exploitation and sex trafficking victims presenting for medical care in the United States](#). *Child Abuse & Neglect*, 44, 98-105.
DOI:10.1016/j.chiabu.2015.04.004

The objective of the study is to describe distinguishing characteristics of commercial sexual exploitation of children/child sex trafficking victims (CSEC) who present for health care in the pediatric setting. This is a retrospective study of patients aged 12-18 years who presented to any of three pediatric emergency departments or one child protection clinic, and who were identified as suspected victims of CSEC. The sample was compared with gender and age-matched patients with allegations of child sexual abuse/sexual assault (CSA) without evidence of CSEC on variables related to demographics, medical and reproductive history, high-risk behavior, injury history and exam findings. There were 84 study participants, 27 in the CSEC group and 57 in the CSA group. Average age was 15.7 years for CSEC patients and 15.2 years for CSA patients; 100% of the CSEC and 94.6% of the CSA patients were female. The two groups significantly differed in 11 evaluated areas with the CSEC patients more likely to have had experiences with violence, substance use, running away from home, and involvement with child protective services and/or law enforcement. CSEC patients also had a longer history of sexual activity. Adolescent CSEC victims differ from sexual abuse victims without evidence of CSEC in their reproductive history, high risk behavior, involvement with authorities, and history of violence.

Brayley, H., & Cockbain, E. P. (2014). [British children can be trafficked too: Towards an inclusive definition of internal child sex trafficking](#). *Child Abuse Review*, 23(3), 171–184. DOI:10.1002/car.2307

In research, policy and practice, internal trafficking has been long overshadowed by its international counterpart. Despite the introduction of specific legislation against internal sex trafficking, confusion remains in Britain around how this crime is distinguished from other forms of sexual exploitation. In particular, there have been growing tensions around whether British children can be victims. The need for clarity and consistency has been highlighted by a series of high-profile cases involving British minors being moved within the UK for sexual exploitation. This article brings ongoing definitional debate into the academic arena, exploring the contents and validity of common arguments against accepting Britons as valid victims. It engages with academic studies, government and third-sector reports, parliamentary debate and legal statute. Additionally, it features arguments raised by practitioners and policy-makers at conferences, training and meetings. It proposes an inclusive and more clearly delineated definition of internal child sex trafficking. The acceptance and application of a standardised definition would facilitate more effective, transparent and consistent multi-agency interventions and data collection. The article will be of interest to practitioners, policy-makers and academics. It focuses on the UK, but contributes to wider international discourse around internal trafficking.

Butler, C. N. (2014). [Kids for sale: Does America recognize its own sexually exploited minors as victims of human trafficking?](#). *Seton Hall Law Review*, 44, 833–937.

Cole, J., & Sprang, G. (2014). [Sex trafficking of minors \(STM\) in metropolitan, micropolitan, and rural communities](#). *Child Abuse & Neglect*, 40, 113-123.
DOI:10.1016/j.chiabu.2014.07.015

The purpose of the study was to examine professionals' awareness, knowledge, and experiences working with youth victims of sex trafficking in metropolitan and non-metropolitan communities. Professionals who worked with at-risk youth and/or crime victims were recruited from all counties in a southern, rural state in the U.S. to complete a telephone survey. Surveys included closed and open-ended questions, which were theme coded. Professionals' ($n = 289$) were classified into one of four categories based on the counties in which they worked: metropolitan, micropolitan, rural, and all three community types. Although there were many similarities found in trafficking situations across the different types of communities, some expected differences were found. First, as expected, more professionals in metropolitan communities perceived CSEC as being a fairly or very serious problem in the state overall. Consistent with other studies, more professionals in metropolitan communities had received training on human trafficking and reported they were familiar with the state and federal laws on human trafficking (Newton et al., 2008). Significantly more professionals in metropolitan (54.7%) communities reported they had worked with a suspected or definite victim of STM compared to professionals in micropolitan communities (29.8%). There were few differences in victim characteristics, vulnerability factors, and trafficking situations (e.g., relationship to trafficker, traffickers' techniques for controlling victims, transportation, and Internet-facilitation of trafficking) across the community types. There is a continued need for awareness building of STM and training, particularly in non-metropolitan communities, as well as adoption of screening tools, integration of trauma-informed care, and identification of best practices.

Cecchet, S. J., & Thoburn, J. (2014). [The psychological experience of child and adolescent sex trafficking in the United States: Trauma and resilience in survivors.](#) *Psychological Trauma: Theory, Research, Practice, and Policy*, 6(5), 482–493. DOI:10.1037/a0035763

To date, little empirical data exists examining the psychological experience of survivors of child sex trafficking in the form of prostitution, nor does current scientific data suggest how American women and children are recruited into the sex trade and sold for sex within the United States. This qualitative research study analyzed the narratives of interviews with 6 survivors of child and adolescent sex trafficking to assess factors that influenced their ability to survive, leave the sex trade, and reintegrate back into the community. Data were analyzed with an ecological systems model and a number of patterns emerged within participants' microsystems, mesosystems, and macrosystems. In the survivor microsystem, participants' insecure attachments led to their vulnerability to recruitment; within the mesosystem unsafe relationships contributed to increased emotional insecurities; in the macrosystem, participants were raised in environments that desensitized them to prostitution. In regard to escape and resilience, in the survivor microsystem participants left the sex trade because of pregnancy or mental health symptoms; in this mesosystem, participants needed safe relationships and increased self-worth; at the level of the macrosystem, once participants left the industry they began processing their traumatic experiences through the mental health system. These data provide unprecedented insights into the psychological effects that the sex trade has on the individuals involved, shedding light on an unexplored issue that has a profound, yet furtive presence in the United States.

Dodsworth, J. (2014). Sexual exploitation, selling and swapping sex: Victimhood an agency. *Child Abuse Review*, 23(3), 185–199. DOI:10.1002/car.2282

Drawing on a qualitative study of women involved in sex work in the UK, this paper focuses on the participants who became involved in sexual exploitation or, what some of them

saw as, selling or swapping sex for non-monetary 'payment', under the age of 18. A central aim of the study was to develop an understanding of how the meaning ascribed to risk and protective factors influenced perceptions of victimhood and agency. Findings indicate that the key determinants of pathway outcomes were: whether, and how, the search for approval and affection was resolved; whether feeling 'different' led to a sense of defeat or strengthened resolve; whether coping strategies were adaptive or maladaptive; and whether individuals experienced the availability of a secure base. The findings suggest the need for policy which acknowledges the expertise and views of the young people involved, recognises the importance of early intervention, and is holistic in service provision not only for young people who are victims of sexual exploitation, but also for those who perceive that they have exercised agency, albeit from limited options, about their involvement in selling or swapping sex.

Farrell, A. (2014). Environmental and institutional influences on police agency responses to human trafficking. *Police Quarterly*, 17(1), 3-29. DOI:10.1177/1098611113495050

In response to domestic and international concern about individuals being exploited for labor or commercial sex, the U.S. Government passed legislation in 2000, creating a new crime of human trafficking and devoting resources to the identification of victims and prosecution of perpetrators. Since that time, all 50 states have passed legislation criminalizing trafficking of persons, yet law enforcement responses to these new legal mandates have been uneven. Recent research suggests police agencies are generally unprepared to identify and respond to human trafficking incidents in local communities and, as a result, relatively few cases have been identified. Using data from medium-to-large municipal police agencies in the United States, this research examines competing explanations for the adoption of responses in the wake of new human trafficking laws. The findings suggest the importance of institutional explanations including organizational experience with change.

Farrell, A., Owens, C., & McDevitt, J. (2014). New laws but few cases: Understanding the challenges to the investigation and prosecution of human trafficking cases. *Crime, Law and Social Change*, 61(2), 139-168. DOI:10.1007/s10611-013-9442-1

All fifty states and the federal government have passed laws to combat human trafficking, but we know little about their effectiveness. Using data from investigative case records and court files for 140 human trafficking cases in 12 U.S. counties and qualitative interviews with law enforcement, prosecutors, and victim service providers, we examined the characteristics of and challenges to investigation and prosecution of human trafficking cases under new state and federal laws. We found that few human trafficking cases are identified by local law enforcement, most cases forwarded to state prosecution are sex trafficking cases involving U.S. citizens, and state prosecutors overwhelmingly charge human trafficking offenders with other, lesser crimes. The legal, institutional, and attitudinal challenges that constrain prosecution of human trafficking are similar across study sites despite varying types of state antitrafficking legislation. Study results suggest prosecution of human trafficking cases is challenging. If new laws are to be effective, then local law enforcement and prosecutors should work collaboratively and adopt proactive human trafficking investigative strategies to identify both labor and sex trafficking cases. There is social benefit to holding traffickers accountable, but more emphasis should be placed on policies that identify and serve victims.

Klatt, T., Cavner, D., & Egan, V. (2014). Rationalising predictors of child sexual exploitation and sex-trading. *Child Abuse & Neglect*, 38(2), 252-260. DOI:10.1016/j.chiabu.2013.08.019

Although there is evidence for specific risk factors leading to child sexual exploitation and prostitution, these influences overlap and have rarely been examined concurrently. The present study examined case files for 175 young persons who attended a voluntary organization in Leicester, United Kingdom, which supports people who are sexually exploited or at risk of sexual exploitation. Based on the case files, the presence or absence

of known risk factors for becoming a sex worker was coded. Data were analyzed using *t*-test, logistic regression, and smallest space analysis. Users of the voluntary organization's services who had been sexually exploited exhibited a significantly greater number of risk factors than service users who had not been victims of sexual exploitation. The logistic regression produced a significant model fit. However, of the 14 potential predictors – many of which were associated with each other – only four variables significantly predicted actual sexual exploitation: running away, poverty, drug and/or alcohol use, and having friends or family members in prostitution. Surprisingly, running away was found to significantly decrease the odds of becoming involved in sexual exploitation. Smallest space analysis of the data revealed 5 clusters of risk factors. Two of the clusters, which reflected a desperation and need construct and immature or out-of-control lifestyles, were significantly associated with sexual exploitation. Our research suggests that some risk factors (e.g. physical and emotional abuse, early delinquency, and homelessness) for becoming involved in sexual exploitation are common but are part of the problematic milieu of the individuals affected and not directly associated with sex trading itself. Our results also indicate that it is important to engage with the families and associates of young persons at risk of becoming (or remaining) a sex worker if one wants to reduce the numbers of persons who engage in this activity.

Lindholm, J., Cederborg, A. C., & Alm, C. (2014). Adolescent girls exploited in the sex trade: Informativeness and evasiveness in investigative interviews. *Police Practice and Research*, 16(3), 197–210. DOI:10.1080/15614263.2014.880839

This study explores the informativeness of 24 adolescents exploited in sex trade in Sweden when they were interviewed by police officers about their experiences. The questions and responses were analysed using coding types developed for research on forensic interviews. Qualitative analyses of the questions resulting in evasive responses and the court files were also done. The findings show that the adolescents were informative yet

evasive, specifically when asked open questions. Experiences of violence and interviews conducted soon after the police intervention may result in higher levels of evasiveness. Concurrently, evasiveness seems to be intimately connected to unique circumstances in each case.

Marcus, A., Horning, A., Curtis, R., Sanson, J., & Thompson, E. (2014). Conflict and agency among sex workers and pimps: A closer look at domestic minor sex trafficking. *The ANNALS of the American Academy of Political and Social Science*, 653(1), 225–246. DOI:10.1177/0002716214521993

The dominant understanding in the United States of the relationship between pimps and minors involved in commercial sex is that it is one of “child sex trafficking,” in which pimps lure girls into prostitution, then control, exploit, and brutalize them. Such narratives of oppression typically depend on postarrest testimonials by former prostitutes and pimps in punishment and rescue institutions. In contrast, this article presents data collected from active pimps, underage prostitutes, and young adult sex workers to demonstrate the complexity of pimp-prostitute dyads and interrogate conventional stereotypes about teenage prostitution. A holistic understanding of the factors that push minors into sex work and keep them there is needed to design and implement effective policy and services for this population.

National Human Trafficking Resource Center (2014). [Human trafficking trends in the United States: 2007–2012](https://polarisproject.org/resources/human-trafficking-trends-2007-2012/). <https://polarisproject.org/resources/human-trafficking-trends-2007-2012/>

Since 2007, the National Human Trafficking Resource Center (NHTRC), operated by Polaris, has worked closely with local partners to help tens of thousands of callers connect with the help and services they need. As a result of the calls, emails, and online tip reports fielded by the hotline over the course of our first five years of operation, the NHTRC

maintains one of the most extensive data sets on the issue of human trafficking in the United States.

Reyes, J. (2014). Federal guidance to address child trafficking: What advocates should know. *ABA Child Law Practice*, 33(2), 1, 22–25.

Davidson, J. O. (2013). [Telling tales: Child migration and child trafficking: Stories of trafficking obscure the realities for migrant children](#). *Child Abuse & Neglect*, 37(12), 1069–1079. DOI:10.1016/j.chiabu.2013.10.012

Deshpande, N. A., & Nour, N. M. (2013). [Sex trafficking of women and girls](#). *Review of Obstetrics and Gynecology*, 6(1), e22–e27.

Sex trafficking involves some form of forced or coerced sexual exploitation that is not limited to prostitution, and has become a significant and growing problem in both the United States and the larger global community. The costs to society include the degradation of human and women's rights, poor public health, disrupted communities, and diminished social development. Victims of sex trafficking acquire adverse physical and psychological health conditions and social disadvantages. Thus, sex trafficking is a critical health issue with broader social implications that requires both medical and legal attention. Healthcare professionals can work to improve the screening, identification, and assistance of victims of sex trafficking in a clinical setting and help these women and girls access legal and social services.

Felitti, V. J. (2013). [Childhood trauma linked to chronic diseases in adulthood: Implications on the medical and economic burden of human trafficking](#). *Public Health and Social Justice*, 2(1).

Emotional, mental, and physical trauma during childhood are correlated with higher risk for many diseases that occur during adulthood, including coronary heart disease, depression, autoimmune disease, and drug addiction. The Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACE) Study, a long-term study spanning over a decade representing middle-class urban America, revealed invaluable data linking child abuse to the risk of chronic diseases. Children and adolescents who are victims of sex or labor trafficking experience the same types of trauma, but to a greater extent and are thus at elevated risk for chronic diseases later in life. They are a group to which the ACE Study directly applies and represent a population that will continue to add to the economic burden of chronic diseases on society, if the proper public health attention is not given to this widespread problem.

Fredlund, C., Svensson, F., Svedin, C. G., Priebe, G., & Wadsby, M. (2013). Adolescents' lifetime experience of selling sex: Development over five years. *Journal of Child Sexual Abuse*, 22(3), 312–325. DOI:10.1080/10538712.2013.743950

Lifetime experience of selling sex among adolescents was investigated together with sociodemographic correlates, parent–child relationship, and the existence of people to confide in. Changes over time regarding the selling of sex were investigated through a comparison of data from 2004 and 2009. This study was carried out using 3,498 adolescents from a representative sample of Swedish high school students with a mean age 18.3 years. Of these adolescents, 1.5% stated that they had given sexual services for reimbursement and both male and female buyers existed. The adolescents who had sold sex had a poorer parent–child relationship during childhood and had fewer people to confide in about problems and worries. Changes over time were found especially regarding the Internet as a contact source and also immigrant background.

Hardy, V. L., Compton, K. D., & McPhatter, V. S. (2013). [Domestic minor sex trafficking practice implications for mental health professionals](#). *Affilia*, 28(1), 8–18.
DOI:10.1177/0886109912475172

Domestic minor sex trafficking is a complex form of oppression and child maltreatment affecting children and adolescents on both the domestic and transnational levels. In the United States, the statistical account of minors who are affected by commercial sex trafficking varies because of the hidden nature of this criminal activity. Symptoms of trauma can result from such factors as forced subjugation, separation from family, and sexual acts with multiple perpetrators. Treatment relevant to this population is necessary for posttrafficking adaptation to society. In this article, we discuss the possible effects of domestic minor sex trafficking, implications for intervention, and directions for future research.

Jordan, J., Patel, B., & Rapp, L. (2013). Domestic minor sex trafficking: A social work perspective on misidentification, victims, buyers, traffickers, treatment, and reform of current practice. *Journal of Human Behavior in the Social Environment*, 23(3), 356–369. DOI:10.1080/10911359.2013.764198

Domestic minor sex trafficking (DMST) has been steadily on the rise in the United States, with estimates between 15,000 and 50,000 victims per year. Actual estimates of DMST victims are difficult to determine based on misidentification, conflicts between state and federal laws about age of consent and charges, perceptions of the victim, as well as lack of knowledge regarding the prevalence and dynamics of sex trafficking of minors. Oftentimes, child victims come from multi-problem homes and have already experienced abuse and neglect, which further complicates treatment and services. This article explores the emerging literature and defines the problem and identifies laws, statutes, and definitions of the problem. It also reviews the literature on victim, buyer, and trafficker characteristics. Organized crime's role in this growing epidemic is explained as

well as treatment options and recommendations for future social work practice at the micro-, mezzo-, and macro-levels.

Konstantopoulos, W. M., Ahn, R., Alpert, E. J., Cafferty, E., McGahan, A., Williams, T. P., Castor, J. P., Wolferstan, N., Purcell, G., & Burke, T. F. (2013). [An international comparative public health analysis of sex trafficking of women and girls in eight cities: Achieving a more effective health sector response](#). *Journal of Urban Health*, 90, 1194–1204. DOI:10.1007/s11524-013-9837-4

Sex trafficking, trafficking for the purpose of forced sexual exploitation, is a widespread form of human trafficking that occurs in all regions of the world, affects mostly women and girls, and has far-reaching health implications. Studies suggest that up to 50 % of sex trafficking victims in the USA seek medical attention while in their trafficking situation, yet it is unclear how the healthcare system responds to the needs of victims of sex trafficking. To understand the intersection of sex trafficking and public health, we performed in-depth qualitative interviews among 277 antitrafficking stakeholders across eight metropolitan areas in five countries to examine the local context of sex trafficking. We sought to gain a new perspective on this form of gender-based violence from those who have a unique vantage point and intimate knowledge of push-and-pull factors, victim health needs, current available resources and practices in the health system, and barriers to care. Through comparative analysis across these contexts, we found that multiple sociocultural and economic factors facilitate sex trafficking, including child sexual abuse, the objectification of women and girls, and lack of income. Although there are numerous physical and psychological health problems associated with sex trafficking, health services for victims are patchy and poorly coordinated, particularly in the realm of mental health. Various factors function as barriers to a greater health response, including low awareness of sex trafficking and attitudinal biases among health workers. A more comprehensive and coordinated health system response to sex trafficking may help alleviate its devastating effects on vulnerable women and girls. There are numerous

opportunities for local health systems to engage in antitrafficking efforts while partnering across sectors with relevant stakeholders.

McGough, M. Q. (2013). [Ending modern-day slavery: Using research to inform U.S. anti-human trafficking efforts](#). *NIJ Journal*, 271, 26–32.

McLeigh, J. D. (2013). Protecting Children in the Context of International Migration: Children in migration require greater protection from violence, exploitation, and discrimination. *Child Abuse & Neglect*, 37(12), 1056–1068.
DOI:10.1016/j.chiabu.2013.10.011

Miller, C. L. (2013). Child sex trafficking in the emergency department: Opportunities and challenges. *Journal of Emergency Nursing*, 39(5), 477–478.
DOI:10.1016/j.jen.2013.06.004

The obligation to protect children is widely recognized in national and inter-national law and policy. In addressing the needs of children in the context of migration, however, many countries have struggled with how to ensure children safety and well-being while simultaneously addressing post-9/11 security concerns and challenges brought on by the global economic crisis. As result of these latter concerns, countries have implemented immigration policies and practices that have raised concern about their consequences for children. It is against this backdrop that in September 2012, the Committee on the Rights of the Child's Annual Day of General Discussion (DGD) focused on *The Rights of All Children in the Context of International Migration*. The objective of the DGD was to promote, at the international and national levels, the rights of children in the context of international migration. To better understand why the complex issue of children affected by international migration is receiving increased attention and the potential threats it poses to children's safety and well-being, this essay first provides an overview of

changing migration patterns, attempts to estimate the number of children affected by migration, the potential effects of migration on children, and reasons why children migrate. This overview is followed by a cursory review of the body of international law relevant to children in the context of inter-national migration and the specific threats to children's safety and security posed by various policies and practices. The essay concludes with a synthesis of recommendations made by the Committee following the DGD.

Rafferty, Y. (2013). [Child trafficking and commercial sexual exploitation: A review of promising prevention policies and programs](#). *American Journal of Orthopsychiatry*, 83(4), 559–575. DOI:10.1111/ajop.12056

Child trafficking, including commercial sexual exploitation (CSE), is one of the fastest growing and most lucrative criminal activities in the world. The global enslavement of children affects countless numbers of victims who are trafficked within their home countries or transported away from their homes and treated as commodities to be bought, sold, and resold for labor or sexual exploitation. All over the world, girls are particularly likely to be trafficked into the sex trade: Girls and women constitute 98% of those who are trafficked for CSE. Health and safety standards in exploitative settings are generally extremely low, and the degree of experienced violence has been linked with adverse physical, psychological, and social-emotional development. The human-rights-based approach to child trafficking provides a comprehensive conceptual framework whereby victim-focused and law enforcement responses can be developed, implemented, and evaluated. This article highlights promising policies and programs designed to prevent child trafficking and CSE by combating demand for sex with children, reducing supply, and strengthening communities. The literature reviewed includes academic publications as well as international and governmental and nongovernmental reports. Implications for social policy and future research are presented.

Reid, J. A. (2013). Rapid assessment exploring impediments to successful prosecutions of sex traffickers of US minors. *Journal of Police and Criminal Psychology*, 28, 75–89. DOI:10.1007/s11896-012-9106-6

Critical psychological, systemic, and legislative barriers to the successful prosecution of child sex traffickers who exploit U.S. citizens were uncovered during a rapid assessment conducted in a U.S. metropolitan region considered a high intensity child prostitution area. Information obtained during 34 face-to-face interviews with criminal justice professionals most likely to encounter child sex trafficking victims was supported by the collection of supplementary quantitative data. Findings revealed complex psychological factors that deter victim participation in prosecutions of traffickers such as child victims' denial of exploitation, trauma bonding between victims and traffickers, and frequent flight and revictimization. Existing inadequacies within the criminal justice system were found that may contribute to child sex trafficking persisting as a low risk/high reward crime.

[The Child Sex Trafficking Data and Response Act of 2013. H.R. 2744](#)

To amend part E of title IV of the Social Security Act to better enable State child welfare agencies to prevent sex trafficking of children and serve the needs of children who are victims of sex trafficking, and for other purposes.

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (2013). [Guidance to states and services on addressing human trafficking of children and youth in the United States.](https://www.acf.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/documents/cb/acyf_human_trafficking_guidance.pdf)
https://www.acf.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/documents/cb/acyf_human_trafficking_guidance.pdf

Macy, R. J., & Graham, L. M. (2012). Identifying domestic and international sex trafficking victims during human service provision. *Trauma, Violence, & Abuse*, 13(2), 59–76. DOI:10.1177/1524838012440340

Children, youth, and adults of both genders are sex trafficked into and throughout the United States every day. Regrettably, little attention has been given to how human service providers might identify the sex-trafficking victims they are likely to encounter. To address this knowledge gap, the authors review 20 documents with the aim of detecting and synthesizing service identification recommendations in the scientific literature, government reports, and documents produced by organizations working with sex-trafficking victims. The review shows consensus regarding identification recommendations, including (a) trafficking indicators, (b) victim interaction strategies, (c) immediate response strategies, and (d) child-specific information. The review also shows consensus regarding screening questions that are important for service providers to use in identifying sex-trafficking victims. These questions relate to the victims' safety, employment, living environment, and travel and immigration status in addition to specific questions used with children and youth. The review results offer human service providers a preliminary set of screening strategies and questions that can be used to identify sex-trafficking victims in the context of human services. Building on the review findings, the authors offer policy and research recommendations.

Pierce, A. (2012). [American Indian adolescent girls: Vulnerability to sex trafficking, intervention strategies](#). *American Indian and Alaska Native Mental Health Research: The Journal of the National Center*, 19(1), 37–56.

The Minnesota Indian Women's Resource Center offers harm reduction programming to at-risk adolescent American Indian girls, including outreach, case management, advocacy, healthy sexuality education, and support groups. To evaluate program impact, participants are assessed at intake and every 6 months afterward for current vulnerability to commercial sexual exploitation, violence, and addiction. Evaluation results indicate

frequent exposure to sex traffickers and suggest that harm reduction methods can help girls reduce risk of commercial sexual exploitation.

Shively, M., Kliorys, K., Wheeler, K., & Hunt, D. (2012). [A National overview of prostitution and sex trafficking demand reduction efforts: Final report](https://www.ojp.gov/pdffiles1/nij/grants/238796.pdf). National Institute of Justice. <https://www.ojp.gov/pdffiles1/nij/grants/238796.pdf>

Johnson, A. L. (2011). A perfect storm: The US anti-trafficking regime's failure to stop the sex trafficking of American Indian women and girls. *Columbia Human Rights Law Review*, 43, 617–710.

Reid, J. A., & Jones, S. (2011). Exploited vulnerability: Legal and psychological perspectives on child sex trafficking victims. *Victims and Offenders*, 6(2), 207–231. DOI:10.1080/15564886.2011.557327

While the Trafficking Victims Protection Act (TVPA) of 2000 and subsequent reauthorizations defined all minors under the age of 18 involved in commercial sex acts as victims, state and local systems continue to classify prostituted minors who are U.S. citizens or lawful permanent residents as offenders. A review of the historical, neurological, and developmental vulnerabilities typical of child sex trafficking victims reveals serious doubts regarding their ability to control their choices or escape from a trafficker. The uniform shielding of all child victims of sex trafficking, whether international or domestic, from legal culpability for the criminal conduct of traffickers is recommended.

Walts, K. K., French, S., Moore, H., & Ashai, S. (2011). [Building child welfare response to human trafficking](https://ecommons.luc.edu/chrc/3/). Center for the Human Rights for Children at Loyola University and the International Organization for Adolescents. <https://ecommons.luc.edu/chrc/3/>

Bernat, F. P., & Winkeller, H. C. (2010). Human sex trafficking: The global becomes local. *Women & Criminal Justice*, 20(1-2), 186-192. DOI:10.1080/08974451003641545

Human trafficking is a significant global problem that impacts hundreds of thousands of people each year who are coerced into forced labor, domestic servitude, or the commercial sex industry. Although the international community is becoming more aware of the scope of the trafficking problem, it is not sufficient for governments to enact anti-trafficking legislation. Trafficking victims are difficult to identify and assist, since these victims are often stigmatized or treated as criminal offenders. Greater efforts need to be made at the local level to develop social services properly trained to assist in facilitating victim cooperation with law enforcement and to handle the particular mental and emotional needs of trafficking victims.

Fong, R., & Berger Cardoso, J. (2010). Child human trafficking victims: Challenges for the child welfare system. *Evaluation and Program Planning*, 33(3), 311-316. DOI:10.1016/j.evalprogplan.2009.06.018

Since the passing of the Victims of Trafficking and Violence Protection Act in 2000 and its reauthorization by President George Bush in 2008, federal, state and community efforts in identifying and providing services for victims of human trafficking have significantly improved. However, most of the research and resources for trafficking victims have been directed towards adults rather than children. Researchers agree that there is a growing number of sexually exploited and trafficked children in the United States yet few programs emphasize the unique experiences and special needs of this population. This article examines commercial sexual exploitation of children; differentiates the needs and problems between child prostitution and victims of human trafficking; reviews and critiques current treatment practices; and summarizes challenges and successes in working with child victims of human trafficking, offering practice and policy recommendations.

Halter, S. (2010). Factors that influence police conceptualizations of girls involved in prostitution in six US cities: Child sexual exploitation victims or delinquents? *Child Maltreatment*, 15(2), 152-160. DOI:10.1177/1077559509355315

This study examined how the police conceptualize juveniles involved in prostitution as victims of child sexual exploitation (CSE) or delinquents. Case files from six police agencies in major U.S. cities of 126 youth allegedly involved in prostitution, who were almost entirely girls, provided the data for this inquiry. This study found that 60% of youth in this sample were conceptualized as victims by the police and 40% as offenders. Logistic regression predicted the youths' culpability status as victims. The full model predicted 91% of youth's culpability status correctly and explained 67% of the variance in the youths' culpability status. The police considered youth with greater levels of cooperation, greater presence of identified exploiters, no prior record, and that came to their attention through a report more often as victims. In addition, the police may consider local youth more often as victims. It appears that the police use criminal charges as a paternalistic protective response to detain some of the youth treated as offenders, even though they considered these youth victims. Legislatively mandating this form of CSE as child abuse or adopting a "secure care" approach is needed to ensure these youth receive the necessary treatment and services.

Kotrla, K. (2010). Domestic minor sex trafficking in the United States. *Social Work*, 55(2), 181-187. DOI:10.1093/sw/55.2.181

By now, most social workers are familiar with the issue of human trafficking. However, many are likely unfamiliar with research indicating that youths constitute the most vulnerable group in the United States for becoming victims of sex trafficking and that most women in prostitution actually entered as minors. Some experts are now referring to the sex trafficking of U.S. children and youths as "domestic minor sex trafficking," or DMST. This article seeks to acquaint readers with what is currently known regarding the

extent of DMST, who is at risk for becoming a victim, and implications for the social work profession in addressing this tragedy.

Rand, A. (2010). It can't happen in my backyard: The commercial sexual exploitation of girls in the United States. *Children & Youth Services*, 31(3-4), 138-156.
DOI:10.1080/0145935X.2009.524480

This article describes the issue of commercial sexual exploitation in the United States and details the risk factors associated with young girls entering the life. The consequences of commercial sexual exploitation are detailed and the barriers to effectively combat this growing phenomenon are investigated. Service providers who work with this population are highlighted, promising practices are discussed, current research is critiqued, and recommendations for developing a comprehensive response to the issue of commercial sexual exploitation are outlined.

Raphael, J., Reichert, J. A., & Powers, M. (2010). [Pimp control and violence: Domestic sex trafficking of Chicago women and girls](#). *Women & Criminal Justice*, 20(1-2), 89-104. DOI:10.1080/08974451003641065

The present study examines the violence and change in violence experienced by domestically sex trafficked women from their pimps since their recruitment. A total of 100 women who currently had a pimp were interviewed, and 71 indicated that they had been recruited into prostitution, many under conditions meeting the federal definition of trafficking. Violence and coercive control were measured at two different points for each woman and compared separately and together. On average, violence had increased since recruitment, and those women who experienced more forms of coercive control generally experienced higher levels of violence from their pimps. The majority of women experienced violence and coercion, thereby meeting federal sex trafficking definitions.

Reid, J. A. (2010). Doors wide shut: Barriers to the successful delivery of victim services for domestically trafficked minors in a southern US metropolitan area. *Women & Criminal Justice*, 20(1-2), 147-166. DOI:10.1080/08974451003641206

Domestic minor sex trafficking (DMST) is the commercial sexual exploitation of U.S. citizen or lawful permanent resident children. This study explored the identification of DMST victims and their access to crime victim services. Findings suggest an acute lack of awareness or understanding of DMST among professionals likely to come into contact with victims, resulting in failure to identify DMST victims. Because of their misidentification, few DMST victims were accessing victim services. Victim-centered protocols for child sex trafficking criminal cases were lacking, leading to a failure in prosecution of sex traffickers. Professionals reported encountering complex issues, such as DMST victims' incapacity to break away from traffickers, denial of victimization, high likelihood of flight and revictimization, and reluctance to cooperate with trafficking investigations.

Kalergis, K. (2009). A passionate practice: Addressing the needs of commercially sexually exploited teenagers. *Affilia*, 24(3), 315-324.

This article draws practice expertise from three women who work with an underserved group of victims of human trafficking—teenagers who have been commercially sexually exploited. The women share what they have learned about working with these girls, the similarities between this field and the early days of work in domestic violence, and the importance of empowering these girls to be part of turning their lives around.

Goździak, E., & MacDonnell, M. (2007). Closing the gaps: The need to improve identification and services to child victims of trafficking. *Human Organization*, 66(2), 171-184. DOI:10.17730/humo.66.2.y767h78360721702

Human trafficking for sexual exploitation and forced labor is believed to be one of the fastest growing areas of criminal activity. The vast majority of victims of severe forms of

trafficking are women and children. The particular vulnerability of child victims, related to biophysiological, social, behavioral, and cognitive phases of the maturity process, distinguishes them from adult victims and underscores the necessity of special attention to their particular needs. In the United States, most trafficking victims, but particularly child victims, go unidentified and even fewer gain access to the services developed to help them break free from their traffickers and reintegrate into the wider society. This paper uses a case study approach to examine the inadequacies and service gaps in the system established in the United States to care for child victims of trafficking. The case study is discussed within a broader context of the evolution of the system of care available to child victims of trafficking, including the transfer of care of undocumented children in federal custody from the former Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) to the Office of Refugee Resettlement (ORR).

Clawson, H. J., Layne, M., & Small, K. (2006). [Estimating human trafficking into the United States: Development of a methodology](https://www.ojp.gov/pdffiles1/nij/grants/215475.pdf). US Department of Justice. <https://www.ojp.gov/pdffiles1/nij/grants/215475.pdf>

The purpose of this study was to develop and fully document methods to estimate the number of females and males trafficked for the purposes of sexual and labor exploitation from eight countries (Colombia, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Mexico, Nicaragua, Peru, and Venezuela) into the United States at the southwest border. The decision to limit the regions of interest for this study to the eight countries of origin and to one entry point into the United States was based on reported trafficking activity in the eight countries of origin, data limitations, and the need to focus the scope of work to a demonstration project.

Willis, B. M., & Levy, B. S. (2002). Child prostitution: Global health burden, research needs, and interventions. *The Lancet*, 359(9315), 1417–1422.

Child prostitution is a significant global problem that has yet to receive appropriate medical and public health attention. Worldwide, an estimated 1 million children are forced into prostitution every year and the total number of prostituted children could be as high as 10 million. Inadequate data exist on the health problems faced by prostituted children, who are at high risk of infectious disease, pregnancy, mental illness, substance abuse, and violence. Child prostitution, like other forms of child sexual abuse, is not only a cause of death and high morbidity in millions of children, but also a gross violation of their rights and dignity. In this article we estimate morbidity and mortality among prostituted children, and propose research strategies and interventions to mitigate such health consequences. Our estimates underscore the need for health professionals to collaborate with individuals and organisations that provide direct services to prostituted children. Health professionals can help efforts to prevent child prostitution through identifying contributing factors, recording the magnitude and health effects of the problem, and assisting children who have escaped prostitution. They can also help governments, UN agencies, and non-governmental organisations (NGOs) to implement policies, laws, and programmes to prevent child prostitution and mitigate its effects on children's health.