



Commercially Sexually Exploited Children in California

Strategies to Support & Serve Our Most Vulnerable Youth

Beyond The Bench, December 3, 2013
Anaheim, California

+ What is Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children (CSEC)?



DEFINITION

- ❖ **Sexual activity involving a child in exchange for something of value, or promise thereof, to the child or another person or persons**
- ❖ **The child is treated as a commercial and sexual object**
- ❖ **CSEC is a form of violence against children**

EXAMPLES OF EXPLOITATION

When the **family benefits** off the sexual exploitation of a child

- ❖ Pornography
- ❖ Stripping
- ❖ Erotic/nude massage
- ❖ Interfamilial pimping
- ❖ Phone sex lines
- ❖ Private parties
- ❖ Gang-based prostitution
- ❖ Escort services
- ❖ Internet-based exploitation
- ❖ Street (track, e.14th/San Pablo)

There are **over 100,000 sites** offering illegal child pornography

+ Who Is At Risk?

RISK FACTORS

- ❖ Earlier childhood sexual abuse
- ❖ Homelessness
- ❖ Running away
- ❖ Inadequate supervision or care
- ❖ Inadequate food, clothing, shelter
- ❖ Family/community history of exploitation
- ❖ Exposure to domestic violence in the home
- ❖ In Foster care, staying in group homes
- ❖ On probation

PATHWAYS TO ENTRY

- ❖ Family selling children
- ❖ Violence and kidnapping
- ❖ Seduction and coercion
- ❖ False advertising for “modeling,” “acting,” or “dancing”
- ❖ Peer recruitment
- ❖ Internet enticement through chatrooms or profile-sharing sites

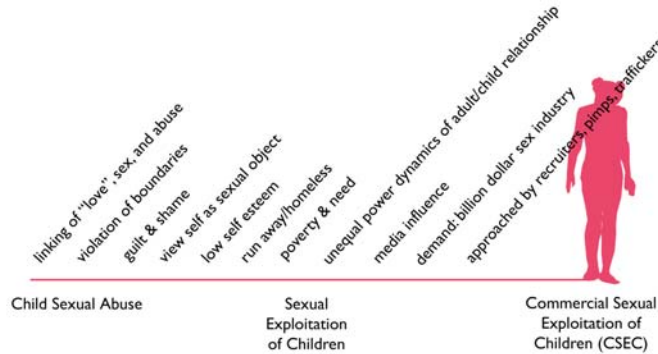


At least **100,000 to 300,000 youth** are at risk for commercial sexual exploitation annually in the U.S.



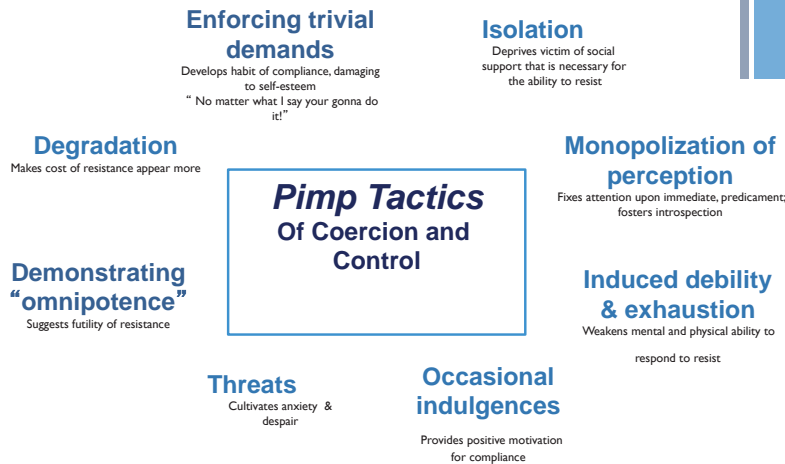
The average age of entry into the commercial sex industry in the U.S. is **12 years old**

+ Continuum of Sexual Abuse



©Girls Educational and Mentoring Services (GEMS)

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+ Experiences of a CSEC Victim

- 1 Losing your identity**
 - ❖ All of your identification is taken away
 - ❖ Constantly having to lie about your name & age
 - ❖ Having to change your name
 - ❖ Having to completely change your appearance
- 2 Constantly subjected to violence**
 - ❖ Being kidnapped, raped or beaten
 - ❖ Risk of abuse for not making nightly quota
 - ❖ Having constant threats made against you and your family
 - ❖ Being punished and beaten when someone else breaks an abuser's "rules"
- 3 Constant sexual abuse**
 - ❖ Forced to watch exploiter have sex with other women
 - ❖ Having sex with strangers every night
 - ❖ High rates of repeated STD's

+ Experiences of a CSEC Victim Continued

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Suffering psychological abuse

- ❖ Being branded with tattoo of exploiters name
- ❖ Living with a group of people you call “family” who you could never depend on for support
- ❖ Having to call an abusive man who is not your father, “daddy”
- ❖ Having to compete for attention from your abuser with other girls

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No control over your situation

- ❖ Constantly moving wherever someone else wants to
- ❖ Not being allowed any contact with the world outside of your abusive situation
- ❖ Feeling trapped in an abusive and violent situation
- ❖ Unable to make eye contact with men other than your abuser
- ❖ Being beat up by a group of 5 pimps for looking one in the eye

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Feeling at odds with law enforcement

- ❖ Getting arrested again and again
- ❖ Having to trade sex with a police officer in exchange for not getting arrested

Psychological/Emotional Impact of CSEC

Disruption of healthy psychological development

- Self-concept, intimacy, beliefs and goals

Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD)

- Impulse to revisit traumatic events, intrusive emotions & memories, flashbacks, hyper arousal, exaggerated startle reaction, panic symptoms

Self-injurious and suicidal behavior

Dissociative disorders

Anxiety

Paranoia

Clinical depression

Explosive outbursts

Sleep disturbance & nightmares

Bond with perpetrators

Hyper-sexualization

Spiritual Impact of CSEC

Despair

Hopelessness

Lack of belief in humanity

Lack of faith in spiritual power

Physical Impact of CSEC

Continuous physical abuse

Rape & gang rape

STDs & STIs

HIV & AIDS

Loss of bowel control

Pregnancy (wanted and unwanted)

Sterility

Facial/dental reconstruction

Tattoos & branding

Brain damage

Substance abuse/addiction

Self-cutting

Suicide/Death

Social Impact of CSEC

Isolation from peer group

Disconnection from community

Isolation from mainstream society

Homelessness

Incarceration/Criminal record as obstacle

Disempowerment

Lack of life skills

Trust issues/Difficulty maintaining relationships

Obstacles to vocation

- Lack of access to legal economies; lack of job experience/skills

Educational deprivation

- Missed school, disconnection with school system

Emotional Impact of CSEC

Anger and rage

Deep emotional pain/grieving

Feelings of humiliation/shame

Stigma of exploitation

Self-blame/Self-loathing

Loss of sexual desire, feelings, or response



+ Stockholm Syndrome & Trauma Bonds

CSEC victims often form “trauma bonds” with perpetrators. This can be the biggest obstacle in their recovery.

How are trauma bonds formed?

- Violence and threats of violence.
- Alternating violence and kindness increases bonding.
- Believe if they even think a disloyal thought, exploiter will know and retaliate.
- Isolation increases bonding.
- Shame and stigma associated with prostitution, rape, losing virginity increases bonding.

+ Stockholm Syndrome & Trauma Bonds

What are the major indicators of trauma bonding?

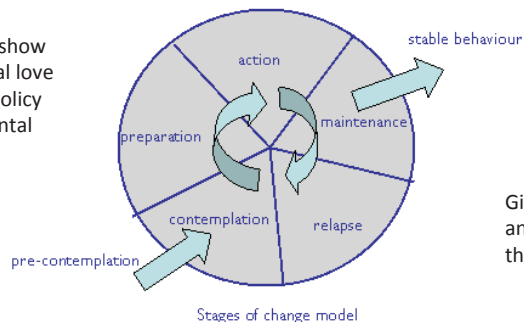
Denial	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Denies anger at exploiter to others and to self Denies violence when violence and threats of violence are actually occurring Rationalizes violence
Search for control	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Believe they have some control over abuse Believe if they control situation it lessens pimps/customers/traffickers control and abuse Tries to get inside pimps/traffickers/ customers heads
Lack of self	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> May or may not have own perspective Experiences sense of self through pimps/traffickers/customers eyes
Empathy with exploiter	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sees world from exploiter's perspective Sees pimp as good guy, protector Sees exploiter as victim Self-blame for situation and abuse Is thankful and grateful pimp/trafficker/customer have not killed them Sees outside authorities/people trying to win release (escape) as bad guys
Others	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Shows ongoing symptoms of trauma or PTSD Intensely grateful for small kindness Hyper vigilant to exploiter's needs Seeks to keep exploiter happy to decrease violence

+ Identifying CSEC Victims

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Exhibit behaviors including fear, anxiety, "hypervigilance", depression, submission, tension, and/or nervousness. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Not in control of their own money. Has two cell phones 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Use term "In the life", or referring to a boyfriend as "Daddy". 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Personal information – such as: age, name, and/or date of birth – might change with each telling of his/ her story, or the information given might contradict itself. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Youth living in group homes are targeted by exploiters due to the potential to recruit more youth from the same home 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Has an explicitly sexual online profile via internet community sites, such as Facebook.com, Backpage.com, My Red Book.com, etc.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Truancy or tardiness from school may be a sign that sexual exploitation is occurring during school hours, or during hours when the young person should otherwise be sleeping. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Depicts elements of sexual exploitation in drawing, poetry, music etc. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Are often in relationships with older men 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Has no identification or is not in control of his or her identification documents. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Family dysfunction – including: abuse in the home (emotional, sexual, physical, etc.), neglect, absence of a caregiver, or substance abuse – is a major risk factor for CSEC, and therefore may be a warning sign. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Excessive frequenting of internet chat rooms or classified sites, such as Craigslist.org, known for recruitment.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Keeping late-night or unusual hours 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Physical and sexual violence are the everyday reality of many sexually exploited children and may leave visible signs of abuse, such as: unexplained bruises, blackeyes, cuts, or marks. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Evidence of controlling or dominating relationships, including: repeated phone calls from a "boyfriend" and/or excessive concern about displeasing partner. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Most sexually exploited children have been trained to lie about their age. Sometimes a child's appearance and/or actions can contradict the information they give. Be sensitive to clues in behavior or appearance that could indicate that a child is underage. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Medical staff consider frequent or multiple sexually transmitted diseases (STDs) or pregnancies a warning sign. 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Unaccounted for time, 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wearing sexually provocative clothing can be an indicator of sexual exploitation (But note, sexually provocative clothing is not a warning sign in and of itself) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Homeless or runaway youth often surviving on their own may be forced to trade sex for money, shelter, or things of value. 			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A tattoo (on the neck, chest, or arms) the result of tattooing or branding by a pimp. 					
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wearing new clothes of any style, or getting hair or nails done with no independent financial means is a more general indicator of potential sexual exploitation 					

+ Stages of Change Model

- Continue to show unconditional love
- Open door policy
- Non judgmental



Girls can fall anywhere on the spectrum!

"Understanding it's a cycle"



“...being in foster care was the *perfect training* for commercial sexual exploitation. I was used to being moved without warning, without any say, not knowing where I was going or whether I was allowed to pack my clothes. After years in foster care, I did not think anyone would want to care of me unless they were paid. So, when my pimp expected me to make money to support the family, it made sense to me.”

- a recovered youth

+ Law related to CSEC & Child Welfare

- Welfare & Institutions Code § 300.2
“...the purpose of the provisions of this chapter relating to dependent children is to **provide maximum safety and protection** for children who are currently being physically, **sexually or emotionally abused**, being **exploited**, and to ensure the safety, protection, and emotional well-being of children who are at risk of that harm.
- Welfare & Institutions Code § 300(d)
“The child has been sexually abused....and the parent or guardian has failed to adequately protect the child from sexual abuse when the parent or guardian knew or reasonably should have known that the child was in danger of sexual abuse.”
- Child Abuse and Neglect Reporting Act (CANRA) Penal Code § 11164-11174.3
 - § 11165(c): “sexual exploitation refers to the following...any person who knowingly promotes, aids, or assists, employs, uses, persuades, induces, or coerces a child...to engage in or assist others to engage in:”
 - **Prostitution, Live performance** involving obscene sexual conduct, Production of **pornographic** images

+ Data Related to the Intersection

- Up to 90% Percent of CSEC have previous history of child abuse and neglect
- Youth who experience sexual abuse are **28 times** more likely to be arrested for prostitution than their non-abused counterparts
- **DATA:** 50-85% have history with the child welfare system prior to exploitation
 - LA County STAR Court
 - Nearly 80 % had prior involvement with child welfare
 - Oakland, Two CSEC provider organizations serving 200 youth
 - 53% of youth reported living in group homes
- Trend repeats nationally

+ Emergency Response

NOW

- First Responders
 - Law Enforcement
 - Child Welfare
 - Probation
- The Hotline
 - Then what?

NEXT

- Barriers & Opportunities
- Develop Protocols
- No Wrong Door
- When a child runs away or goes missing – what happens in your county?

+ What is your Role?

What can you do?

- Social Worker
- Lawyer
- Judges
- Caregivers
- Treatment Staff
- Schools
- CASA
- Mentors

+ Strategies to Better Serve CSEC

- Training
- Identification
- Assessment
- Placement
- Treatment

+ STAR Court



- Funded by a grant from California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation; \$300,000 / year for 3 years.
- Dept. of Probation also granted \$350,000 / year for 3 years.
- Currently working with 72 girls, ages 12 – 18.
- Generally doing well, or are AWOL.
- Approx. 18 have participated in the prosecutions of their traffickers.

+ Alienation



- Emotional abuse
- Confinement
- Isolation; removal from familiar places and people
- Re-naming
- Sense of competition

+ Placement Considerations



- Excerpt from Police Report 7/19/13:

Officers investigation revealed that Def. ___ was 15 years old. Officers contacted Def.'s mother A. W. who advised that she was far away, but would make arrangement for Def.'s cousin to pick her up from the station. Def. was processed at Van Nuys Jail for 647(b) and released to her cousin Canady, Curtis, driver license number F2551230.

Curtis Maurice Canady, Alleged Pimp Underage Girls Called "Cash," Faces Up to Life in Prison

By Matt Coker Thu., Aug. 8 2013 at 7:30 AM
Categories: [Court](#), [Crime-inj](#)

3 Comments 



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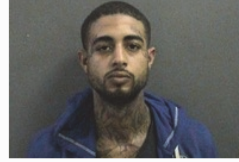


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Orange County District Attorney Tony Rackauckas and U.S. Attorney André Birotte Jr. in Santa Ana got together, kicked the tires on pimping cases both brought against a 19-year-old South Los Angeles man and decided the case will be tried in federal court. That is because, for allegedly trafficking in girls between the ages of 14 and 16, Curtis Maurice Canady, who also goes by "Cash," could go to prison for life with a conviction in U.S. District Court.



Cash running out?

The minimum time Canady faces for conviction on either of two counts of child sex trafficking is 10 years in federal prison.

Rackauckas' office had been first to announce state charges against him of two counts of human trafficking with the intent to pander, two counts of pandering a minor by procuring, and one count of attempted pimping.

The state and federal agencies are essentially gambling on five years of prison time, because the maximum sentence Canady faced with a conviction in Orange County Superior Court was 15 years in state prison.

+ Placement Considerations

- Be clear on who family members are / SILP
- Any change in parents' ability to supervise?
- Dual Supervision 300/602
- Use of house arrest
- Is the home or placement near the pimp or the track?
- Open suitable placement: minimizing AWOL's
- Effectiveness of placement is based upon who is there, not where it is

+ Placement Options

- Crittenton Services for Children & Families
- Children Are Our Future
- David & Margaret
- Maryvale
- Mary Magdalene Transitional Housing (18+)

Community Level Residential Treatment



+ Out-of-County Placement Options

Forest Ridge, Iowa

- Both dependents and delinquents
- IV-E eligible
- Licensed, approved through ICPC
- Not locked; in the cornfields
- 106 beds
- On-grounds school, sports

+ Background & Federal Action

- No Longer Viewed as Solely an International Problem
- Trafficking Victims Protection Act
 - Definition of victim
 - Remedies
 - Trafficking in Persons Report (TIP)
- Action by the Federal Government
 - ACYF Guidance to Child Welfare Agencies
 - Federal Legislation
 - Senate Caucus to End Human Trafficking

+ CSEC in California

- California is a hub for exploitation
 - FBI – High Intensity Child Prostitution Areas
 - CSEC specialized providers serve hundreds of youth annually
- Nine Human Trafficking Task Forces identified nearly 1,300 victims in California
 - Over 70% were victims from the United States
 - Over 50% were victims of sex trafficking
 - 360 children arrested for prostitution in California
 - 13% of these children were between the ages of 12-14.
- Last year close to 200 children were arrested for prostitution in Los Angeles County
 - Additionally, 37 girls who were not known CSEC victims disclosed their exploitation while in detention

+ Promising Practices & Collaborative Approaches to Ending CSEC

- California
 - County Efforts
 - State Efforts
- Other Efforts in California
 - Child Welfare Council
 - SB 1000
- Child Welfare Led No Wrong Door Approaches in Other Jurisdictions
 - Washington
 - Oregon
 - Connecticut
 - Florida
 - Minnesota

+ Child Welfare Council Effort to Fight Commercial Sexual Exploitation

- “Ending CSEC: A Call For Multi-System Collaboration in California”
- Key Recommendations
 - Overarching state body to monitor and oversee implementation of recommendations
 - 1) Prevalence Assessment
 - Prevention Training
 - Specialized Services
 - Multi-System Data Coordination
- State Action Team
 - Subcommittees

+ Key Components in an Effective Child-Caring System

- **Screening and identifying** victims and assessing their needs
- **Education and Awareness** - all agencies use the same language
- **Safety planning** for youth, families and the staff serving them
- **Collaboration** among the multiple **child-serving systems** and agencies, including CBOs, FBOs, etc.
- **Tracking, collecting, and sharing data**
- **Trauma-informed** system of care
- **Appropriate placements** trained to serve CSEC
- **Trust and Relationship** building to improve service provision
- **Culturally competent** and appropriate services
- **Survivor involvement** in designing and implementing programming for CSEC

+ Key Points to Share with Colleagues

- CSEC are not “prostitutes” they are victims of serial, child sexual abuse and sexual exploitation
- There is a continuum including early childhood sexual abuse, sexual exploitation and CSEC
- Many CSEC suffer from Stockholm Syndrome and Trauma Bonds with their perpetrators
- Foster care children are at high risk of being recruited into the commercial sex industry
- If you are a mandatory reporter, and you know or have reason to suspect exploitation, you must report it to the child abuse hotline
- Civil legal advocates assist in securing resources and supports to help stabilize youth and their families

+ Resources (hyperlinked)

- [National Center For Youth Law - Ending the Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children: A Call for Multi-System Collaboration in California](#)
- [WestCoast Children's Clinic - Research to Action: Sexually Exploited Minors \(SEM\) Needs and Strengths](#)
- [Institute of Medicine - Confronting Commercial Sexual Exploitation and Sex Trafficking of Minors in the United States](#)
- [Shared Hope International - Protected Innocence Report](#)
- [ECPAT - And Boys Too](#)
- [Polaris Project](#)
- [Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children \(CSEC\) in the Portland Metro Area](#)

+ Contact Information

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