

# Domestic Sex Trafficking

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## Today's Discussion

- Domestic Sex Trafficking defined
- Vulnerabilities and Other Factors as a Precursor to Victimization
- The Victims
  - Physical and Psychological Consequences
- Traffickers/Pimps/ Buyers/"Johns"
- The Process
- Identification and Interaction
- Resources and our response



# Human Trafficking Defined

## Human Trafficking Defined By Federal Law

- “Severe Forms” of human trafficking is:
  - (a) sex trafficking in which a commercial sex act is induced by force, fraud, or coercion, or in which the person induced to perform such an act has not attained 18 years of age; or
  - (b) *Domestic minor sex trafficking* occurs when a U.S. citizen or legal permanent resident who has not attained 18 years of age is engaged in a commercial sex act.

These definitions are from the Trafficking Victims Protection Act (TVPA) of 2000  
and from the Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act (TVPRA) of 2005

## Why Sex Trafficking

- **Money**
  - Considered 2<sup>nd</sup> fastest growing criminal enterprise
- **Cocaine Analogy**
  - Seeing local gang involvement
- **Toledo, Ohio**
  - Ranked 4<sup>th</sup> nationally for recruitment
  - Following Miami, Portland and Las Vegas

## Vulnerabilities and Other Factors as a Precursor to Victimization

## The Pimp Game

- “A ho’s desire can’t be fed because she has a need that isn’t material- security, love, acceptance, confirmation of one’s self worth, etc. Just as young men join gangs for the same reason, a ho exchanges something she can see for something she can’t. This leaves the door open for exploitation, abuse and misuse.”

*Mickey Royal*



## Missing Children Fact

- ❖ Estimated 1.3 million children go missing each year
- ❖ Over 2,000 children reported missing everyday
- ❖ 80% are returned to their loved ones within 24 hours after going missing
- ❖ Current Ohio Stats
  - 1221 children currently are entered missing in Ohio
  - 20,000 to 25,000/ year



## Who is especially vulnerable to domestic minor sex trafficking?

- **Homeless, runaway or “throwaway” youth**
  - a third of whom are lured into prostitution within 48 hours of leaving home.
  - 100,000 to 300,000 runaway youth
- **Youth within the foster care system & child protective services**
  - Over 500,000 children in the U.S. currently reside in some form of foster care.

## Domestic Human Trafficking

- **Childhood abuse at home**
  - 91% of the girls experienced some type of child abuse at home
    - Neglect
    - Physical Abuse
    - Sexual Abuse

University of Toledo study conducted of youth rescued from sex trafficking

## External Macro Push & Pull Factors

- External forces and processes that exist in the larger social environment over which **individuals can exercise only minimal, if any control**, but which nonetheless, exert powerful influences over their lives
  - Socio-economic
  - Societal attitudes toward youth
  - Poverty
  - Child victims of crime & violence
  - Societal responses to crimes committed against children including sex crimes
  - Presence of preexisting adult prostitution markets

## External Macro Push & Pull Factors cont'd

- Presence of groups advocating child-adult sexual relationships
- Sexual behavior of unattached and transient males e.g. military, seasonal workers, truckers, etc.
- Community knowledge & attitudes concerning HIV/AIDS & other sexually transmitted disease

## External Micro Push & Pull Factors

- External forces and processes that impact individuals directly, but over which **they can exert some measure of control**
  - Socio-behavioral
    - Family dysfunction
    - Parental drug dependency
    - History of physical and/or sexual assault
    - Personal drug dependency
    - School/other social performance failures
    - Gang membership
    - Active recruitment into prostitution by others
    - Pimp Culture as Pop Culture

## Interpersonal, Individual Situation Push & Pull Factors

- Forces that influence a person's sense of mastery over his/her own personal environment and future
  - Psychogenic
    - Poor self esteem
    - Chronic depression
  - Seriously restricted future orientation



## The Victims

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### Who are the victims of domestic minor sex trafficking?

- Youth of any ethnicity, race, or religion
- Youth of any socio-economic class
- Female, male, and transgender youth
- Youth of all ages, including teenagers
- Vulnerable youth
- The higher the vulnerability, the higher the chance of victimization

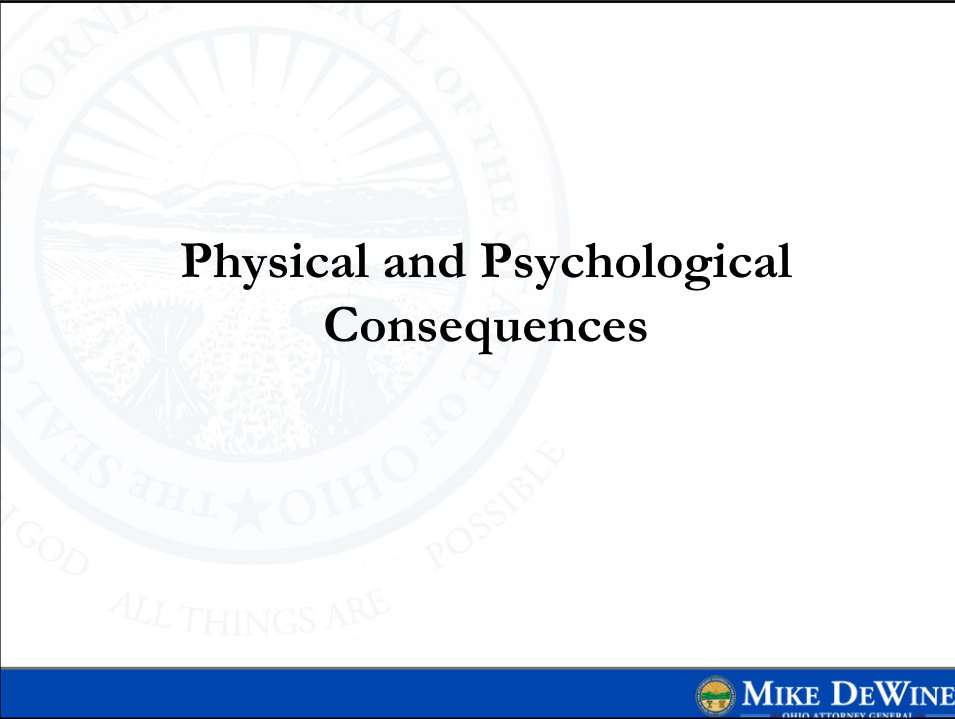
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## Domestic Human Trafficking

- **Recruitment**
  - Were recruited by girls, women, young men and older men
  - Vulnerability was a precursor to successful recruitment
  - Many girls were runaways at the time of recruitment
  - Recruitment involved an underground network

## Domestic Human Trafficking

- **Locations prostituted**
  - Traveled 44%
  - Truck Stops 19%
  - Cat Houses 13%
  - Strip Clubs 6%
  - Street 6%
  - Parties 6%
  - Conventions 6%
  - All posted online



## Physical and Psychological Consequences

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## Physical Consequences of Human Trafficking

- **Malnutrition, rotting teeth**
- **Stunted growth (in children)**
- **Alcohol and other Drug Use**
- **Chronic back, visual or respiratory problems from working in agriculture, construction or manufacturing in dangerous conditions**
- **Traumatic Brain Injury**
- **Burns**

Clawson, H.J. & Grace, L.G. (2006). Finding a path to recovery: Residential facilities for minor victims of domestic minor sex trafficking. Washington DC: Health and Human Services.

US Department of Health & Human Services Campaign to Rescue and Restore Victims of Trafficking. Labor Trafficking Fact Sheet. Retrieved on September 28, 2009 from [http://www.acf.hhs.gov/trafficking/about/fact\\_labor.html](http://www.acf.hhs.gov/trafficking/about/fact_labor.html)

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## Physical Consequences of Human Trafficking

- Newly broken and/or shattered bones
- Older broken bones that did not heal properly
- Excessive bruising
- Bite marks
- Bed bug bites
- Reproductive Health Problems
  - Exposure to STDs, including HIV
  - Pregnancies
  - Abortions
  - Fertility issues

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## Psychological Impact of Human Trafficking

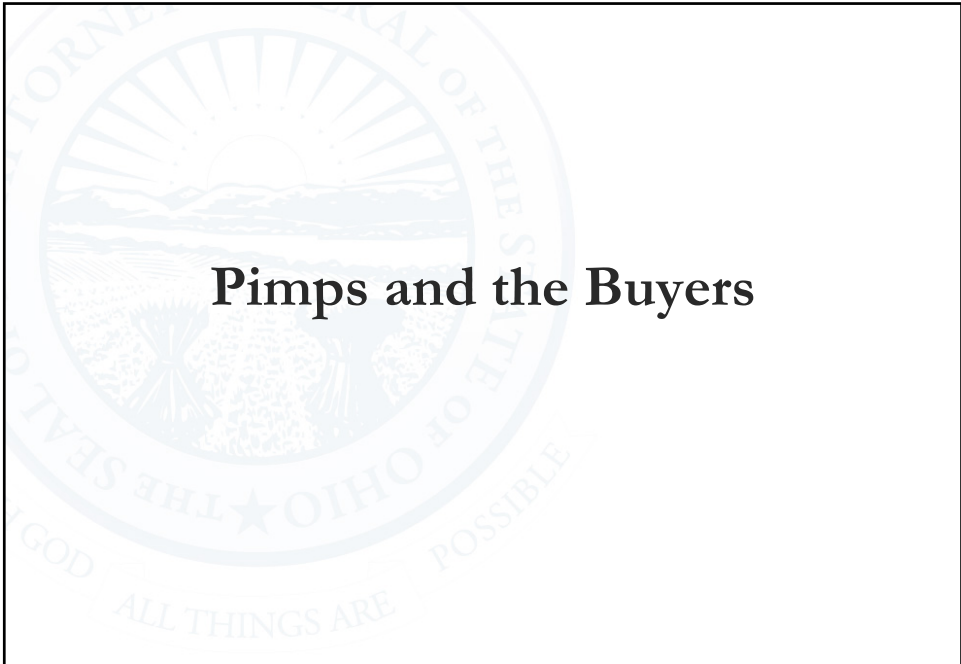
- Post Traumatic Stress Disorder
- Somatic Complaints (Headaches, chronic pain) related to stress and trauma
- Extreme Anxiety, fear and panic attacks
- Personality Disorders
- Eating Disorders
- Inability to Trust
- Self destructive behaviors, including suicide attempts
- Profound shame and guilt
- Changed perceptions of the perpetrator (including establishing a traumatic bond (Stockholm Syndrome))
- Despair, hopelessness, depression
- Mind/Body separation/disassociated ego states


Clawson, H.J. & Grace, L.G. (2006). Finding a path to recovery: Residential facilities for minor victims of domestic minor sex trafficking. Washington DC: Health and Human Services.

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# Pimps and the Buyers


















# Traffickers/Pimps

**TOLEDO CONNECTIONS**

These men and women with ties to Toledo are among numerous people who are under federal indictment on prostitution-related charges as part of a nationwide crackdown.

					
Franklin Robinson	David Powers	Shimon Maxwell	Robert D. Scott	Robert D. Scott II	Terrence Williams
					
Kenneth Tibbitts	Tana Adkins	Melissa Jacobs	Derick Price	Derek Maes	Eric Pennington



## Pimp's Recruitment Techniques

- **“Finesse Pimping”**
  - involves manipulating young girls into situations where they seemingly make their own decisions to enter, sell sexual services, and give their money to a trafficker
- **“Bait and Switch”**
  - techniques involve presenting attractive opportunities as bait in order to gain the attention and build trust or hope in a victim, only to switch the situation for the economic gain of the trafficker

## Pimp's Recruitment Techniques

- **“Guerilla Pimping”**
  - a trafficker approaches and forces the victim to work through the use of threat, physical violence, and intimidation

## Who are the Buyers?

- Buyers are the individuals who are the recipients of the sexual services – paid for by monetary or non-monetary means
- Buyers can be all ages, ethnicities and represent a variety of social and economic backgrounds
- Buyers are equally as responsible for the crime of domestic minor sex trafficking despite their lack of intent or knowledge of age or victim status

## The Process

## The Pimp Game

- **Targets-** There is generally a certain profile of a child driving selections, vulnerable girls
  - Low self-esteem
  - Troubled homes or foster children
  - Runaways
  - Sometimes mentally disabled
- **Courtship**
  - Introduction and gradually get to know target
  - Listen like he cares
  - Create a sense of protection and security, like a boyfriend

## The Pimp Game

- **Isolation**
  - Works to isolate child from people who really care
  - The strategic removal of people who care ensures child has no one other than him to turn
- **Transition-**
  - Introduction of the idea of prostitution
    - We really need the money
    - You owe me for everything I have done for you
    - It will only be this one time
    - If you love me, you will do it
  - Or, immediately turn violent after gaining trust

## The Pimp Game

- **Control**
  - Every movement is controlled
  - Physical control
  - Psychological control
    - Mixture of love and affection to anger and violence
    - Quick to fluctuate
    - This creates a powerful combination of love and fear that makes the victim obedient

## Identification and Interaction

## Barriers to Identification

- Unaware of what is being done to them is a crime
  - Do not consider themselves victims
  - Blame themselves for their situations
- May develop loyalties, positive feelings toward trafficker as coping mechanism

## Interactions with Potential Domestic Minor Sex Trafficking Victims

1. **Building Trust:**
  - Reassure the child that you are there to help them
  - Don't interview the child armed or in uniform
  - When possible, interview one-on-one
  - Avoid derogatory labels like "prostitute" and "delinquent"
  - Don't make promises
  - Conveying a sense of safety to emancipated victims is of paramount importance

## Interactions with Potential Domestic Minor Sex Trafficking Victims

### 2. Learning the Truth:

- Separate the victim from his or her trafficker before questioning begins.
- Use informal conversation
- Remember most victims do not self-identify as “trafficking victims”
- Victims may often tell the false story they’ve been coached to give; it often takes 3-5 encounters before the true story may emerge.
- Avoid pity, judgment, patronization and victim-blaming attitudes or body language.
- Allow victim to set length and pace.
- Watch for and respond to nonverbal cues.

## Interactions with Potential Domestic Minor Sex Trafficking Victims (cont.)

### 3. Breaking the Pimp’s Control:

- Explain that the pimp was breaking the law, not the child.
- Understand the victim may believe he or she is in love with the pimp.
- Understand the victim may have been told the police will not believe them or aid them or that the police will harm them.



## Resources and Our Efforts

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## Resources

- **National Human Trafficking Resource Center**
  - Operated by the Polaris Project, Washington, DC
  - 24/7 human trafficking hotline 888-3737-888
  - Can connect you with a service provider in your area

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## Resources

- **The Polaris Project**
  - [www.polarisproject.org](http://www.polarisproject.org)
- **Shared Hope International**
  - [www.sharedhope.org](http://www.sharedhope.org)
- **Ohio Attorney General's Office**
  - [www.ohioattorneygeneral.gov/humantrafficking](http://www.ohioattorneygeneral.gov/humantrafficking)
- **The Federal Bureau of Investigation**
  - [www.fbi.gov](http://www.fbi.gov)
- **Immigration and Customs Enforcement**
  - [www.ice.gov](http://www.ice.gov)
- **U.S. State Dept.**
  - [www.state.gov](http://www.state.gov)



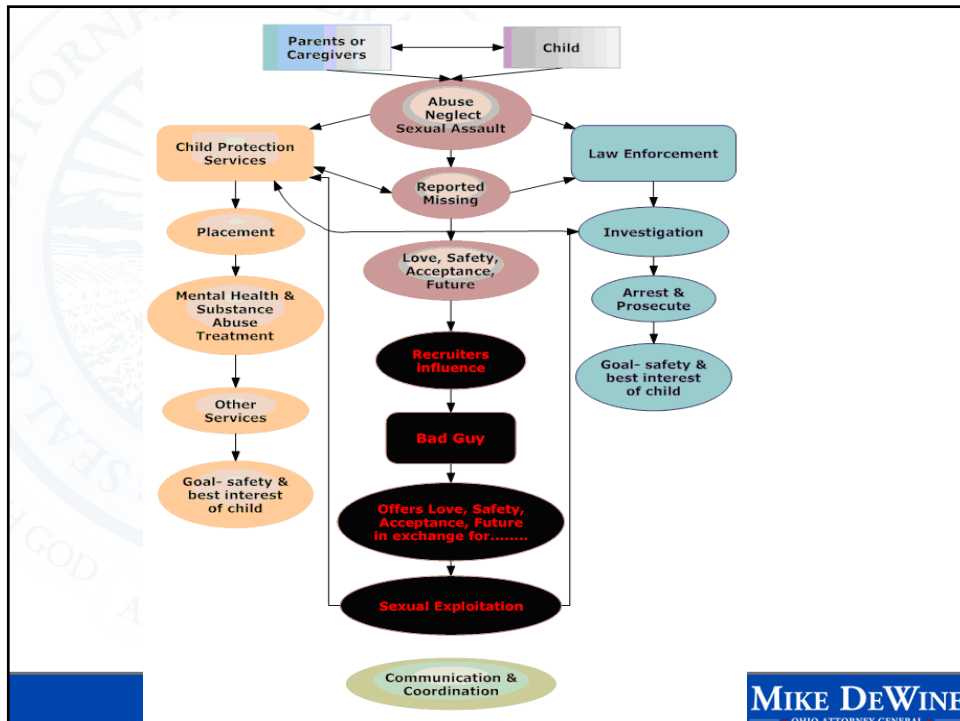
## Resources

- ❖ **Ohio Missing Persons Unit**
  - ❖ [www.ohioattorneygeneral.gov/MissingPersons](http://www.ohioattorneygeneral.gov/MissingPersons)
  - ❖ [www.ohioattorneygeneral.gov/OpenInvestigations](http://www.ohioattorneygeneral.gov/OpenInvestigations)
  - ❖ MCCCH software on OHLEG
- ❖ **National Center for Missing and Exploited Children**
  - [www.missingkids.com](http://www.missingkids.com)
- ❖ **National Center for Missing Adults/ Let's Bring Them home**
  - [www.lbth.org](http://www.lbth.org)
- ❖ **Central Ohio CrimeStoppers**
  - [www.stopcrime.org](http://www.stopcrime.org)



# Resources

- ❖ The Ohio AMBER Plan
  - [www.ohioamberplan.org](http://www.ohioamberplan.org)
- ❖ Ohio Missing Adult Alerts
  - [www.missingadults.ohio.gov](http://www.missingadults.ohio.gov)
- ❖ The Charley Project
  - [www.charleyproject.org](http://www.charleyproject.org)
- ❖ The Doe Network
  - [www.doenetwork.org](http://www.doenetwork.org)
- ❖ National Runaway Switchboard
  - [www.1800runaway.org](http://www.1800runaway.org)
- ❖ NAMUS
  - [www.namus.gov](http://www.namus.gov)



## Ohio Missing Persons Unit

- ❖ Assist law enforcement with missing children investigations
  - Act as intermediary between law enforcement and parents
  - Phone calls
  - Victimology
- ❖ Post photos ( 2007-98% & 2008- 97% clearance rate) & poster system
  - Receive tips and leads
  - Locator
- ❖ Provide guidance and recommendations
  - Investigative guidance
  - Legal advice
  - Resource recommendations
- ❖ Enhanced investigative tools
  - MySpace/Facebook and other social websites
  - Lexis Nexis other public records
  - NamUs



## Ohio Missing Persons Unit

- ❖ Birth Certificate Flagging
- ❖ Provide training to law enforcement and prevention training to public
- ❖ Notification system for AMBER Alerts
- ❖ Issue Missing Child and Missing Adult Alerts
- ❖ Officially a Missing Persons Unit summer 2010
- ❖ Save a life!

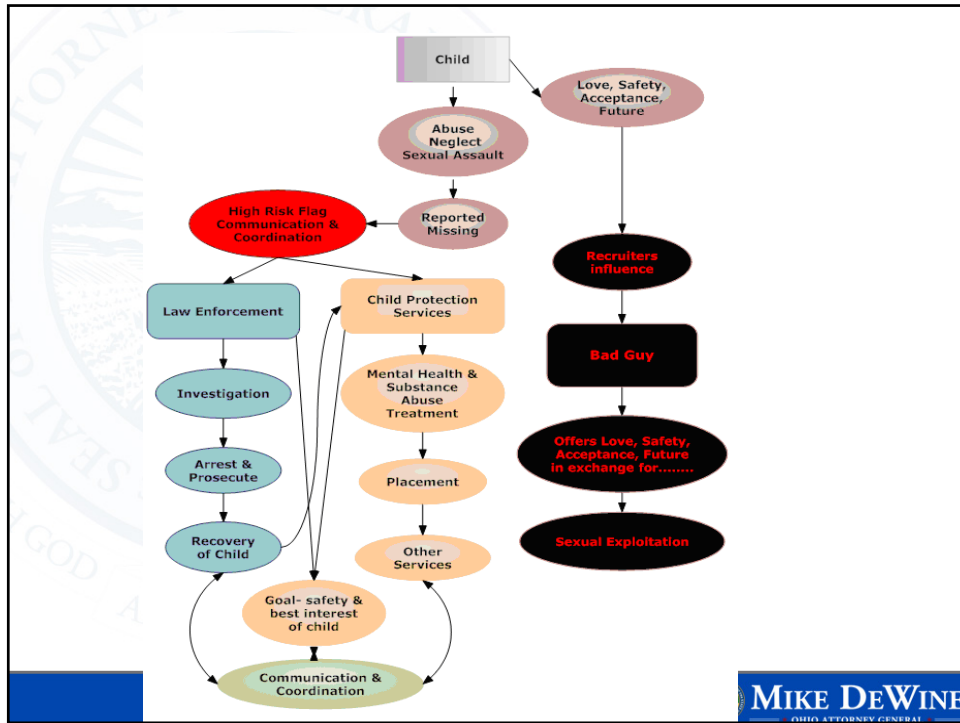


## Ohio Missing Persons Unit

- **Human Trafficking efforts**
  - AGO TIPS Study Commission
  - Working with local coalitions
  - Working with Law Enforcement
  - Legislation

## Working with Law Enforcement

- **Training**
  - 4 hour basic course
  - 2 hour online course
  - 1 day investigator's course
  - In-service training, conferences or request
- **Liaison**
  - Coordinate resources
- **Investigative support**



*For more information or if you have any questions, contact me at:*

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