

Understanding and Responding to the Needs of Commercially Sexually Exploited Youth



Recommendations for the Mental Health Provider

Roya Ijadi-Maghsoodi, MD^{a,b,*}, Mekeila Cook, PhD^c,
Elizabeth S. Barnert, MD, MPH, MS^d,
Shushanik Gaboian, MSW^e, Eraka Bath, MD^f

KEYWORDS

- Commercially sexually exploited children
- Commercial sexual exploitation of children • Sex trafficking • Human trafficking
- Exploitation

KEY POINTS

- Mental health providers may encounter commercially sexually exploited youth in various health care settings, emergency rooms, the juvenile justice system, and child welfare system.

Continued

Dr R. Ijadi-Maghsoodi is supported by the VA Office of Academic Affiliations through the VA Advanced Fellowship in Women's Health. Dr E. Bath receives funding from the NIMH (2P20 MD000182) and the Los Angeles County Department of Probation. Dr R. Ijadi-Maghsoodi, Dr E.S. Barnert, Dr M. Cook, and Ms S. Gaboian have nothing to disclose. The views expressed in this article are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the position or policy of the US Department of Veterans Affairs or the United States Government.

^a VA HSR&D Center for the Study of Healthcare Innovation, Implementation & Policy, VA Greater Los Angeles Healthcare System, 11301 Wilshire Boulevard, Building 500, Room 1601, Office of Healthcare, Transformation and Innovation, Mail Code 10-C, Los Angeles, CA 90073, USA;

^b Department of Medicine, David Geffen School of Medicine, University of California Los Angeles, Los Angeles, CA 90095, USA; ^c Integrated Substance Abuse Programs, Department of Psychiatry and Biobehavioral Sciences, Semel Institute for Neuroscience and Human Behavior, University of California, Los Angeles, 11075 Santa Monica Boulevard, Suite 100, Los Angeles, CA 90025, USA; ^d Department of Pediatrics, David Geffen School of Medicine, University of California Los Angeles, Los Angeles, CA 90095, USA; ^e Department of Neuroscience and Human Behavior, University of California Los Angeles, Los Angeles, CA 90095, USA; ^f Child Forensic Services, Department of Psychiatry and Biobehavioral Sciences, Semel Institute for Neuroscience and Human Behavior, University of California Los Angeles, 300 Medical Plaza, Room 1243, Los Angeles, CA 90095, USA

* Corresponding author.

E-mail address: rijadimaghsoodi@mednet.ucla.edu

Child Adolesc Psychiatric Clin N Am 25 (2016) 107–122

<http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.chc.2015.08.007>

childpsych.theclinics.com

1056-4993/16\$ – see front matter Published by Elsevier Inc.

Continued

- Commercially sexually exploited youth are at risk for a variety of health and mental health issues, including posttraumatic stress disorder, depression, substance abuse, anxiety, and suicidality.
- Psychosocial risk factors contributing to identifying commercially sexually exploited youth include histories of abuse/neglect, foster care placement, running away, and homelessness.
- A trauma-informed, multidisciplinary approach incorporating evidenced-based practice and comprehensive case coordination is necessary to effectively address the needs of commercially sexually exploited youth.
- Techniques providers should use with these youth include establishing a safe environment by interviewing youth alone, providing an empathetic, nonjudgmental approach, and avoiding discussions that could revictimize youth.

INTRODUCTION

Commercial sexual exploitation of children (CSEC) is a critical human rights and public health issue that child psychiatrists and other mental health providers can play an important role in addressing. Although commercially sexually exploited youth often go unidentified by health providers, these youth may have frequent contact with health care, juvenile delinquency, and foster care systems, and therefore, likely interact with mental health providers who work in these settings. Although the data on commercially sexually exploited youth are limited, studies show that these youth are at high risk for medical and psychiatric problems and have challenging psychosocial histories, including having experienced childhood abuse, homelessness, and foster care placement.¹⁻⁴ The exact numbers of commercially sexually exploited youth are unknown given the clandestine nature of the exploitation and underreporting. Experts suggest that the number of sexually exploited children in the United States may be growing.¹ Understanding the risk factors for commercial sexual exploitation, the health and mental health implications, and treatment options can help improve detection and care for this underserved population.

DEFINING COMMERCIAL SEXUAL EXPLOITATION OF CHILDREN

To better understand CSEC, it is helpful to review the definition of human trafficking in its various forms, both internationally and in the United States. Trafficking in persons (also referred to as human trafficking) is defined by the United Nations Palermo Protocol as “the recruitment, transportation, transfer, harbouring or receipt of persons, by means of threat or use of force or other forms of coercion, of abduction, of fraud, of deception, or the abuse of power or of a position of vulnerability or of the giving or receiving of payments or benefits to achieve the consent of a person having control over another person for the purpose of exploitation.”⁵ Related to this, exploitation includes but is not limited to sexual exploitation, prostitution, forced labor, slavery, and servitude or the removal of organs.⁵ Under the Palermo protocol, the trafficking of a child refers to all youth less than 18 years old.

In the United States, the Trafficking Victims Protection Act (TVPA) of 2000 provided a similar definition for victims of trafficking. The TVPA defined sex trafficking as the “recruitment, harboring, transportation, provision, or obtaining of a person for the purpose of a commercial sex act.”⁶ The TVPA defined severe trafficking as sex trafficking through the use of force, fraud, or coercion, or if the victim is less than 18 years of age.⁶

Download English Version:

<https://daneshyari.com/en/article/4150406>

Download Persian Version:

<https://daneshyari.com/article/4150406>

[Daneshyari.com](https://daneshyari.com)