

Using a Gender Lens in the Prevention of Sex Trafficking

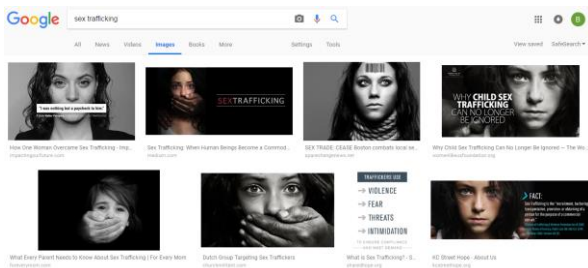
JuST Conference
Bianca Morales-Egan, PCI
Pronouns: She/Her/Hers

Janet Ruiz, PCI
Pronouns: She/Her/Hers



What is Sex Trafficking?





Sex Trafficking in San Diego

- 3,417 - 8,108 victims of commercial sexual exploitation (adults and minors)
- Average age of entry: 16
- 80% of victims U.S.
- 98% female
- \$810 million
- "Facilitators" > \$670,000/yr



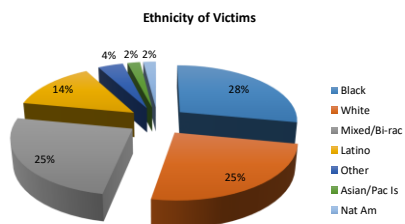
Carpenter, A and Jamie Gates. 2016 "Measuring the Nature and Extent of Gang Involvement in Sex Trafficking in San Diego," National Institute of Justice

Sex Trafficking in San Diego

- 55% had experienced **homelessness**
- 28% had been in the **Foster Care system**
- Focus groups from all **20 schools** identified suspected victims; **90% confirmed CSEC cases**
- **30% of facilitators** witnessed or participated in sex trafficking recruitment related to schools

Carpenter, A and Jamie Gates. 2016 "Measuring the Nature and Extent of Gang Involvement in Sex Trafficking in San Diego," National Institute of Justice

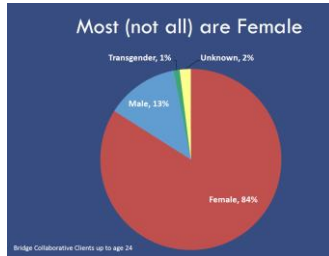
Sex Trafficking in San Diego



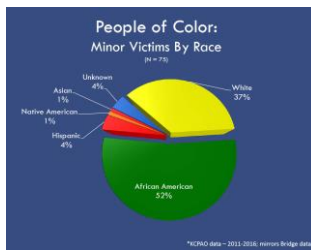
Carpenter, A and Jamie Gates. 2016 "Measuring the Nature and Extent of Gang Involvement in Sex Trafficking in San Diego," National Institute of Justice

Seattle Data

Valient Richey, Senior Deputy Prosecuting Attorney (Former), King County Prosecuting Attorney's Office, *Power and Privilege: Understanding the Role of Men in Perpetuating Racial, Economic and Gender Inequality through Prostitution, Coalition to End Sexual Exploitation Global Summit 2018, Washington DC*

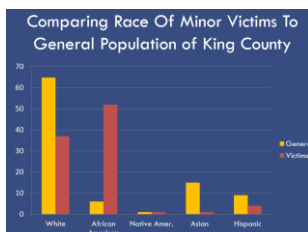


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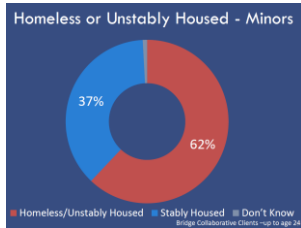
(Valiant Richey, 2018)

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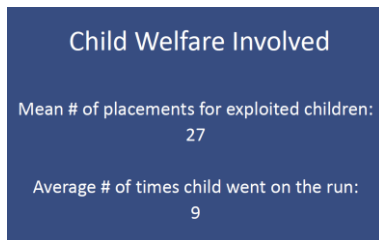
(Valiant Richey, 2018)

Seattle Data



(Valiant Richie, 2018)

Seattle Data



(Valiant Richie, 2018)

The majority of victims of sex trafficking come from lived experiences which make them more vulnerable.

What about the buyers?

San Diego Buyer Sting



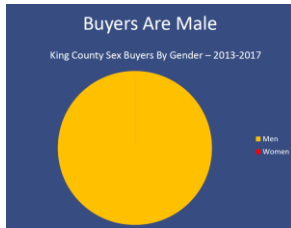
Demand Fuels Exploitation

CEASE Network Project:
≈ 533 Ads a Day ≈ 125 response per Ad

Friday, 04/28/2017	576	Friday, 04/28/2017	266
Saturday, 04/29/2017	723	Saturday, 04/29/2017	162
Sunday, 04/30/2017	430	Sunday, 04/30/2017	191
Monday, 05/01/2017	508	Monday, 05/01/2017	68
Tuesday, 05/02/2017	555	Tuesday, 05/02/2017	98
Wednesday, 05/03/2017	578	Wednesday, 05/03/2017	72
Thursday, 05/04/2017	561	Thursday, 05/04/2017	91
TOTAL	3729		

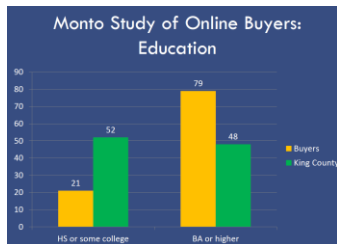
A day in San Diego: 66,000 potential responses to sex ads

Seattle Data



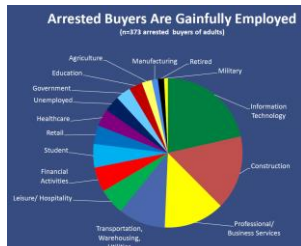
(Valiant Richie, 2018)

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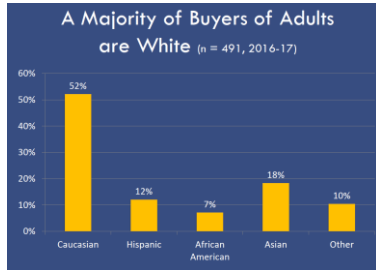
(Valiant Richie, 2018)

Seattle Data



(Valiant Richie, 2018)

Seattle Data



(Valiant Richie, 2018)

Let's Review . . .



- Poor
- Female
- Racial minority
- Unstable housing and living environments
- Often criminalized
- Employed / Wealthy
- Male
- White
- Not criminalized
- Professionals

Is prostitution an equitable system?

How did we get here?

What are our young people seeing?

2017 Year in Review

0 COMMENTS JANUARY 9, 2018

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What are our young people seeing?

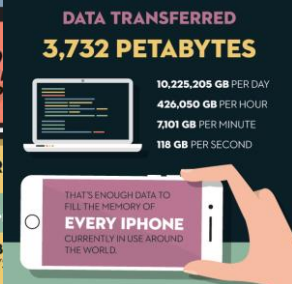
2017 Year in Review

0 COMMENTS JANUARY 9, 2018



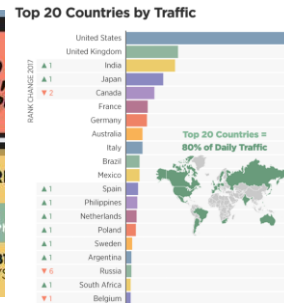
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What are our young people seeing?

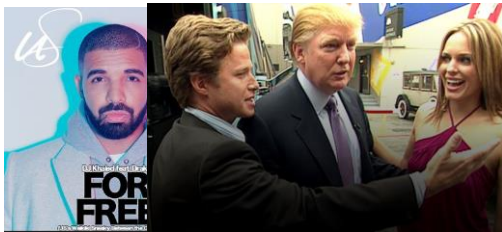


What are our young people seeing?



I always wonder if you ask yourself
Is it just me?
Is it just me?
Or is this sex so good I shouldn't have to f#*% for free?

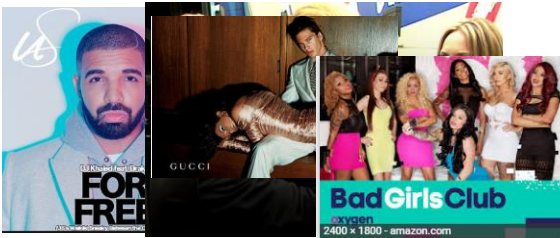
What are our young people seeing?



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What are our young people seeing?



What are our young people seeing?



Toxic Masculinity



First of all, let's say what it is not. No one is saying that all masculinity or that men themselves are toxic or bad. You are free to like the things that men stereotypically like: sports, cars, the opposite sex, with no judgment. There is nothing wrong with these things.

When does masculinity become toxic? When it derives from a rejection of the perceived opposite, femininity, that is so pervasive as to become unhealthy for both men and those around them.

Carley, Michael. 2018. "What Is Toxic Masculinity?" The Good Men Project, April 5, 2018

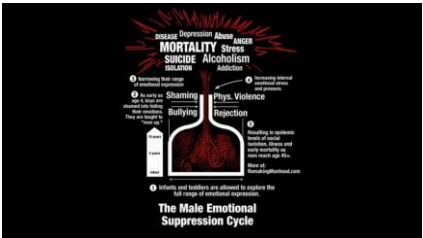
Toxic Masculinity



Women and children are often victimized by toxic masculinity, through domestic violence and other violence, but men are victimized by it as well. Toxic masculinity stunts their cognitive, intellectual, and emotional growth. This damage is part of what fuels the victimization of women.

Carley, Michael. 2018. "What Is Toxic Masculinity?" The Good Men Project, April 5, 2018

Toxic Masculinity



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Mutual and healthy sexuality



Primary Prevention

"How do you expect to uproot a tree when all you are doing is ripping at the leaves?"

- Rachel Moran, survivor



Primary Prevention



Root Cause Analysis



Project ROOTS



Project ROOTS



2009

Project ROOTS



Project ROOTS



Project ROOTS



- Group Mentoring
- Social Emotional Learning
- 70 activities to choose from (19 recommended)
- 1 – 2 hours per session
- After-school setting
- Age appropriate for ages 8 – 13
- Coping skills
- Peer-to-peer exchanges
- Specialized human trafficking modules

Project ROOTS

EMPATHY:

Inclusion & Diversity
Emotional Intelligence
Bullying
Self-Love
Communication

Social & Emotional Learning Core Competencies

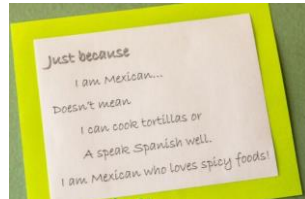


“Just Because” Exercise

Just because I am _____

Doesn't mean _____

I am _____!



Project ROOTS

EMPOWERMENT:

Healthy Relationships
Consent & Boundaries
Successful Planning
The Good, the Bad, and the Ugly of Technology
Alcohol and Drugs
Social Media/Internet Safety

Social & Emotional Learning Core Competencies



Compliments for Free

- 1) Write your name on the square
- 2) Crumple it up and throw it in the middle
- 3) Take a square
- 4) Write one compliment
- 5) Throw back in the middle
- 6) Repeat



Project ROOTS

EQUALITY:
Understanding Privilege
Human Trafficking
Sex Trafficking
Gender Roles &
Stereotypes



Boy Box and Girl Box

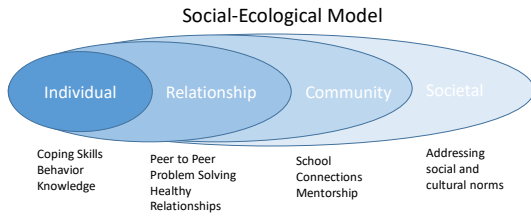
What does it mean to
"Act like a boy?"

What does it mean to
"Act like a girl?"

Consequences/Names



Project ROOTS



Project ROOTS Results



"I want to be in the Bad Girls Club."

"Her step dad told me that I must be working miracles in the hour he drops the girls off."

"She expressed how she finally felt cared for, understood, and safe."

Project ROOTS Results



Sarah was a quite girl who didn't talk about anything for months. One day, the group started to talk about jail and prison. Half of the kids had parents or relatives in jail and the group started to cry. When they started to see each other cry, they yelled out "group hug!!" and they all started to embrace and say "I love you." Towards the end, Sarah started to cry as well. Everyone froze. She disclosed, "My brother is in jail all of this year and I miss him. And it was on my birthday when the cops came and took him."

Project ROOTS Results



"You want to make a difference? You want to improve the behavior? [...] 70% of those girls were in the office all the time. Even the principal said, 'I haven't been seeing you in the office lately, what's going on?' I said, 'It's the girls club.' It will help with behavior, it'll give the girls a voice. That's how they feel, that they don't have a voice."

- Project ROOTS Facilitator

Project ROOTS Results

100% of participants feel as though their ROOTS facilitator cares about them

70% are better able tell their friends "no" when they don't want to do something, after participating in the project

65% improved their knowledge about what consent means

100%

of participants knew whom to go to for help with a problem

81%

increased their knowledge about sex trafficking tactics

Project ROOTS Results



"It shows me to be brave and be ready for anything that comes in my way."

"Believing that I am special in many ways."

"Because now I know how to be me and let no one stop me."

Takeaways

- Starts with ourselves and self-reflection on how we perpetuate harmful gender norms
- Do not put trafficking victims/survivors in a box
- Consider where you stand on the prostitution debate
- Invest in the long-term solutions

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Contact Us!



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