

Human trafficking of Youth in Colorado: A trauma informed response



LABORATORY TO COMBAT
HUMAN TRAFFICKING

Presented by
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Program Coordinator



Goals of training

By the end of today, we hope you can answer these 4 key questions:

- What are the individual, community and systemic pushes that lead to trafficking?
- Who is represented among youth who are exploited?
- Why is a trafficking/exploitative situation hard to leave?
- What can a CASA advocate do to promote change and encourage exit of a trafficking/exploitative situation?

What is **human trafficking**?



combathumantrafficking.org



denvercasa.org

What is human trafficking?

Three categories of trafficking:

1. Those under 18 involved in commercial sex acts
2. Those 18 and over involved in commercial sex acts through force, fraud or coercion
3. Those forced to perform labor and/or services in conditions of involuntary servitude, peonage, debt bondage or slavery through force, fraud or coercion

Not limited to people who are foreign -born, adults or females

Push and Pull Factors

Abuse and neglect



Relationship

Homelessness



Family and home

Inability to access
formal markets



Incom
e

Marginalized identity



Acceptanc
e

Child welfare

Parental role or
stability

What about Systemic Pushes?

When we think about people who are exploited in other countries, we acknowledge the socioeconomic dynamics that contribute to their exploitation – the impact of poverty, of war, of a sex industry. Yet in our country, the focus on individual pathologies fails to frame the issue appropriately.

Rachel Lloyd, *Girls Like Us*, p. 34

The Field Center Study

- 270 homeless youth interviewed in Philadelphia, Phoenix, Washington D.C. Ages 17-25
- Analyzed prevalence of human trafficking, history of child maltreatment, out of home placement, and protective factors among those who were sex trafficked or engaged in the sex trade to survive

Human Trafficking Prevalence and Child Welfare Risk Factors Among Homeless Youth

A Multi-City Study



Debra Schilling Wolfe, MEd
Johanna K.P. Grieson, PhD, MSS, MLSP
Sarah Wesch, MSW
Daniel Trogia, PhD, MPP

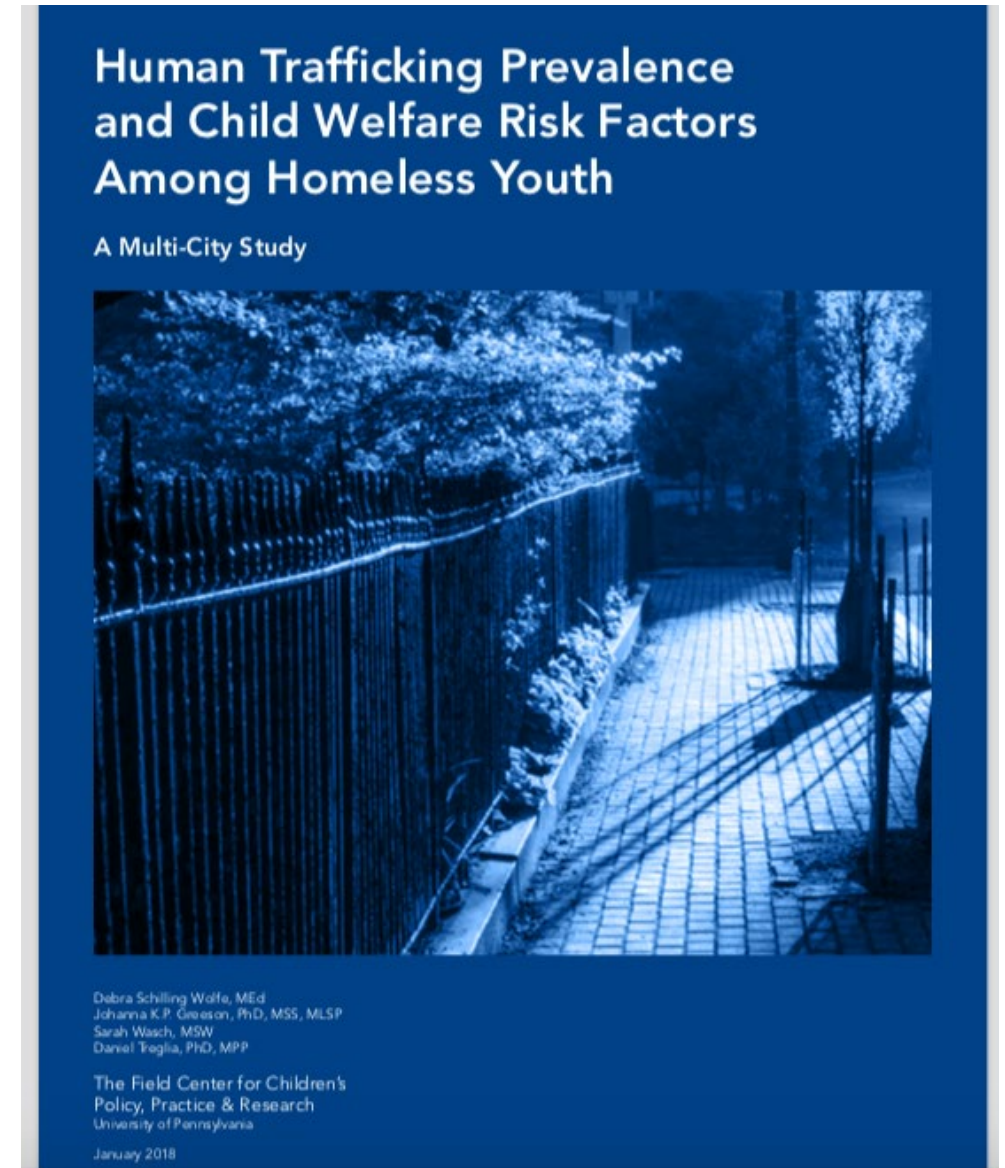
The Field Center for Children's
Policy, Practice & Research
University of Pennsylvania

January 2018





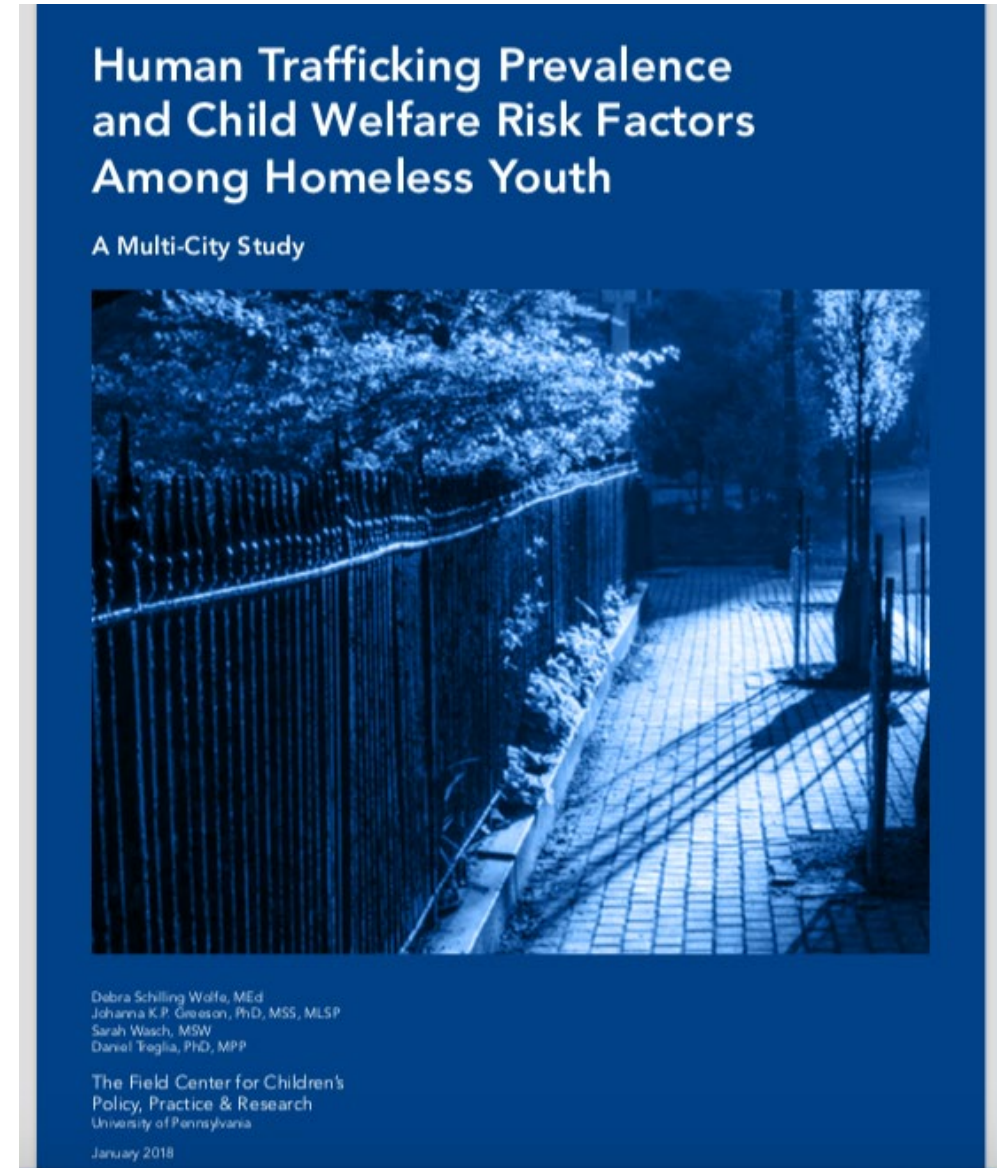
1 in 5
Were victims of
human trafficking





25%

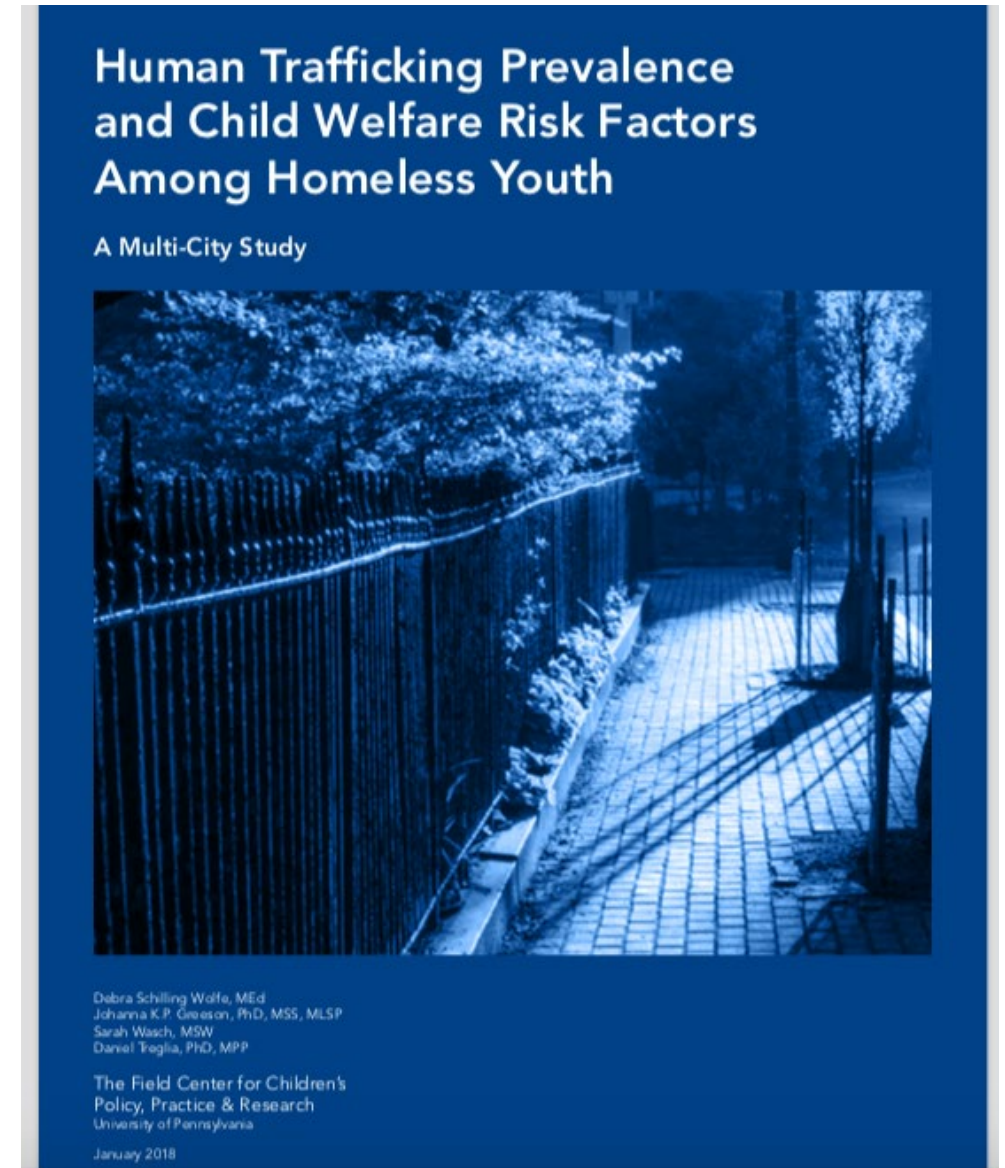
Reported being approached
for paid sex on their first
night of being homeless





67%

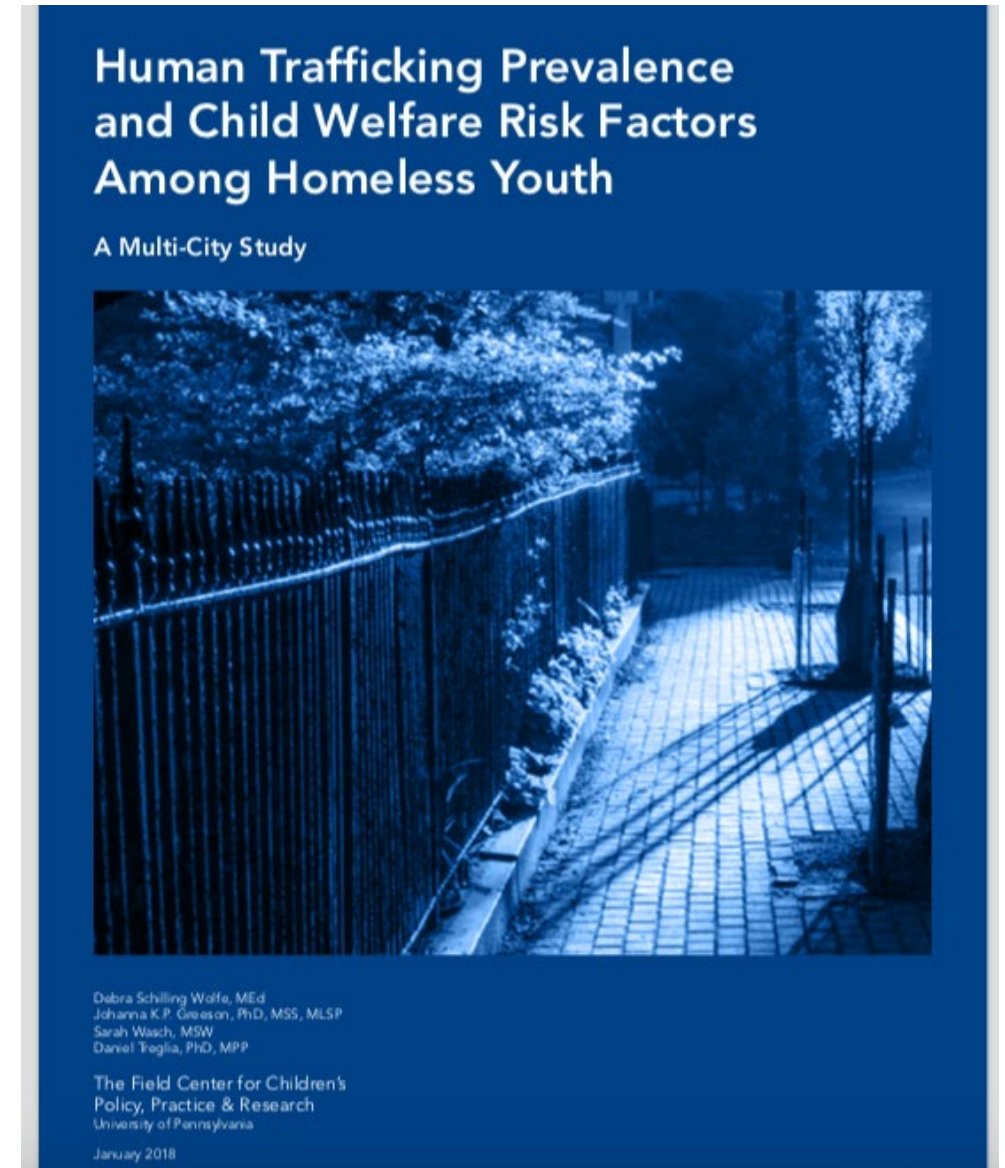
Sex trafficking victims who
did not graduate high school





95%

Sex trafficking victims with a
history of child maltreatment





41%

Sex trafficking victims with
at least one out-of-home
placement in the past

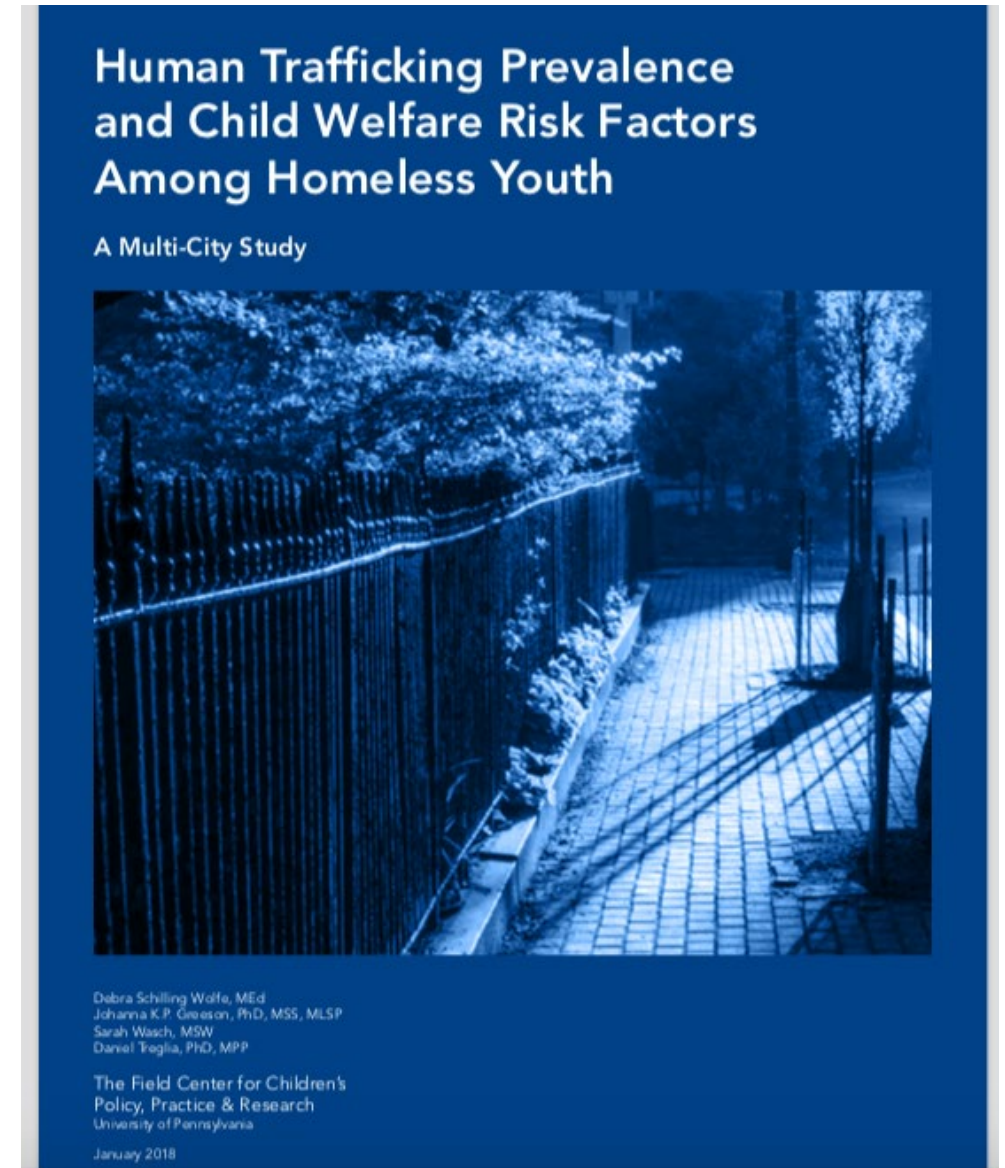


Figure 10

PERPETRATOR BY SEX TRAFFICKED STATUS

Biological Parent

63%

55%

Sibling or Other Relative

53%

43%

Parent's Partner

11%

12%

Placement Guardian

3%

5%

Other

16%

33%

Not Sex Trafficked
(but Engaged in Commercial Sex)

Sex Trafficked

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Serving Our Youth Study

*Ages 13-24



The Palette Fund

Honoring Rand Harlan Skolnick's Philanthropic Legacy

the
Williams
INSTITUTE

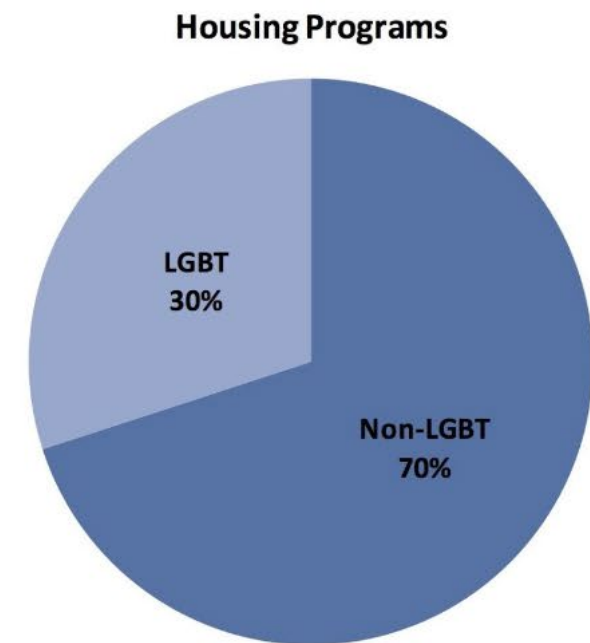
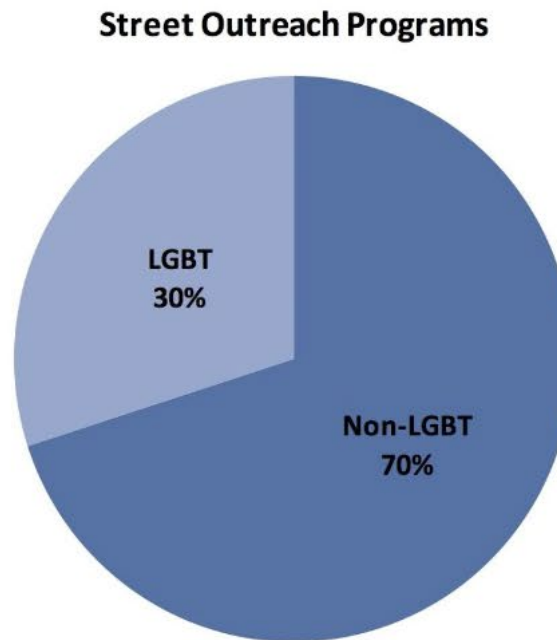
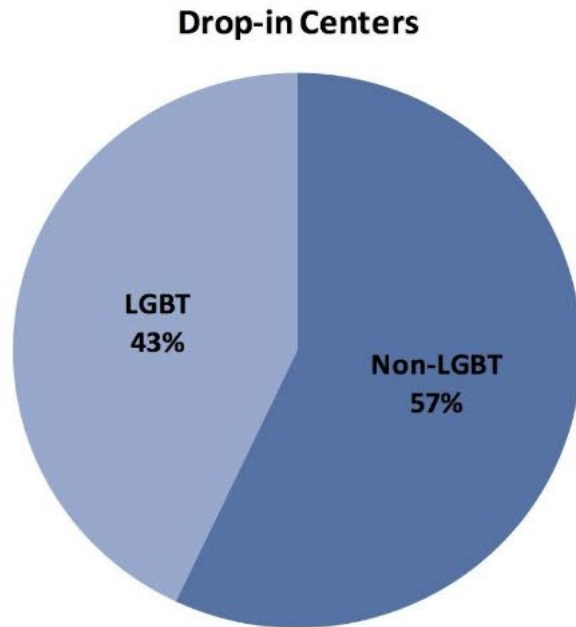
SERVING OUR YOUTH:

Findings from a National Survey of Services Providers
Working with Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Youth
Who Are Homeless or At Risk of Becoming Homeless



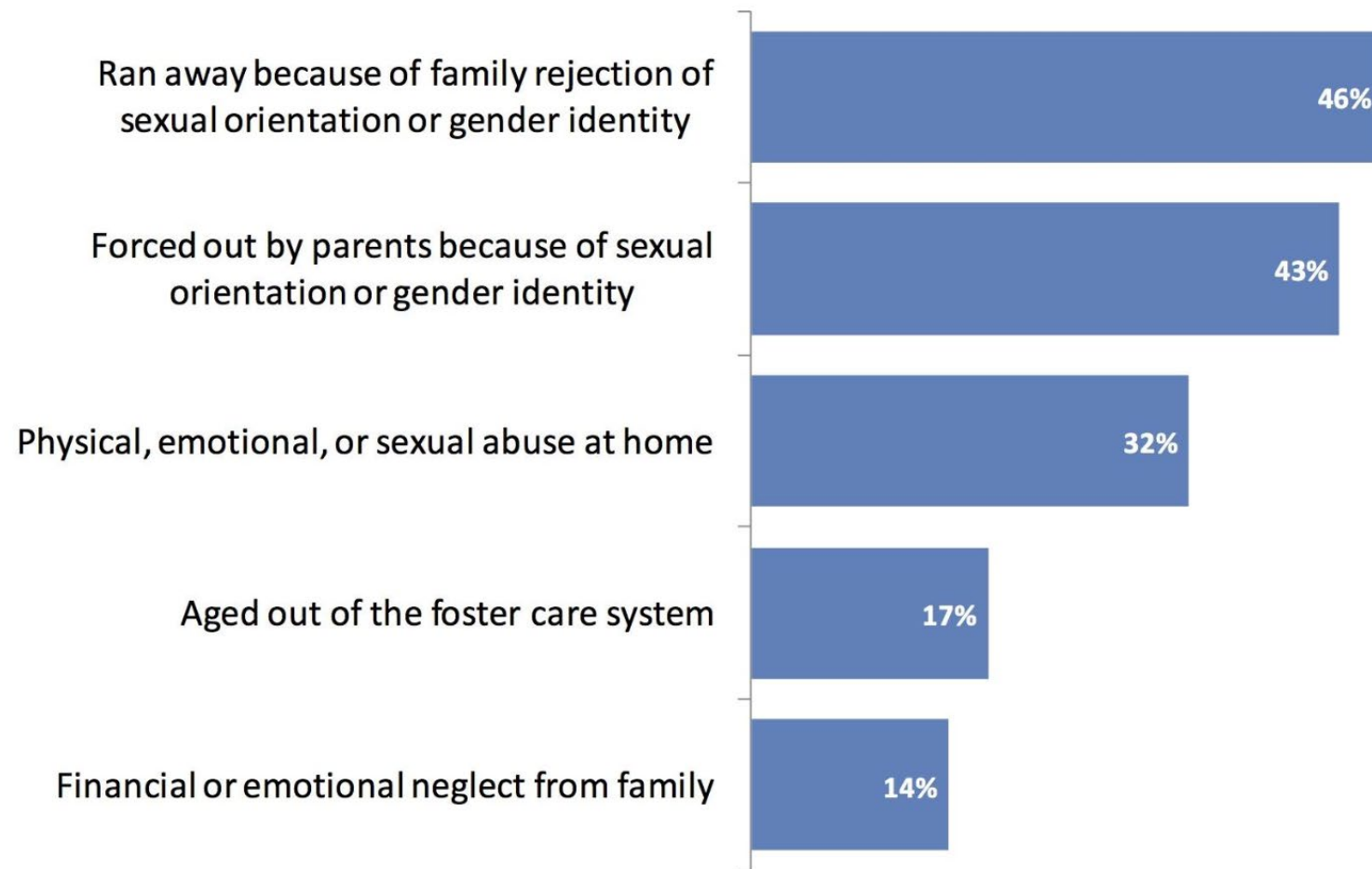
Serving Our Youth Study

Percent of Clients Served – LGBT and Non-LGBT Youth



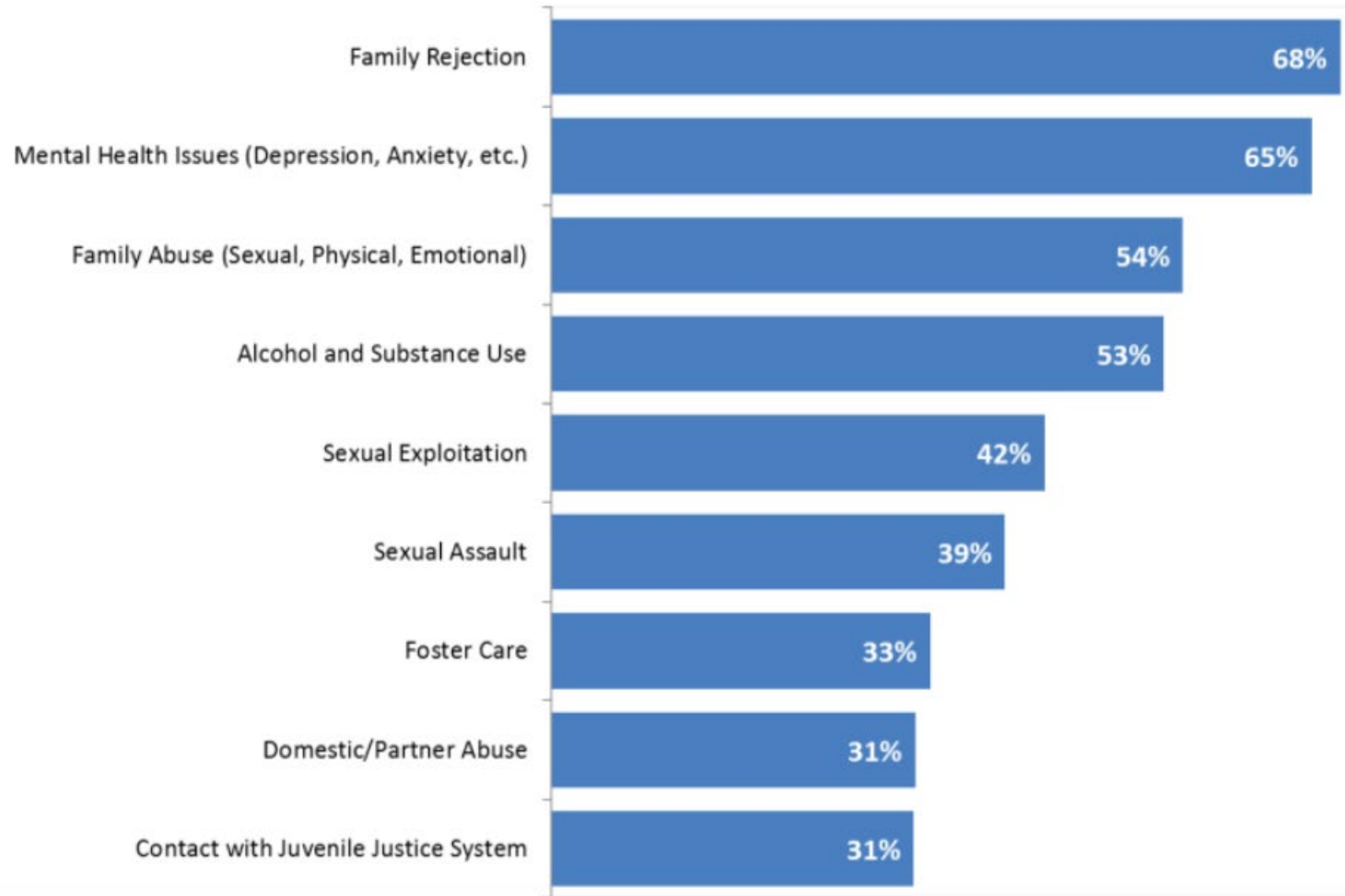
Serving Our Youth Study

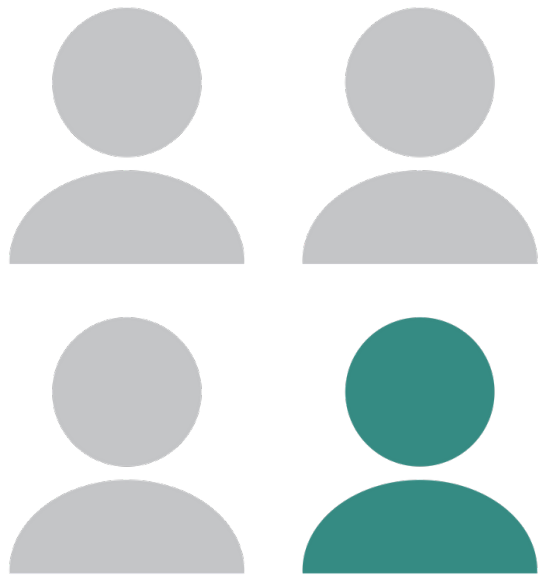
Top five reasons why LGBT youth are homeless
or at-risk of becoming homeless
(n=381)



Serving Our Youth Study

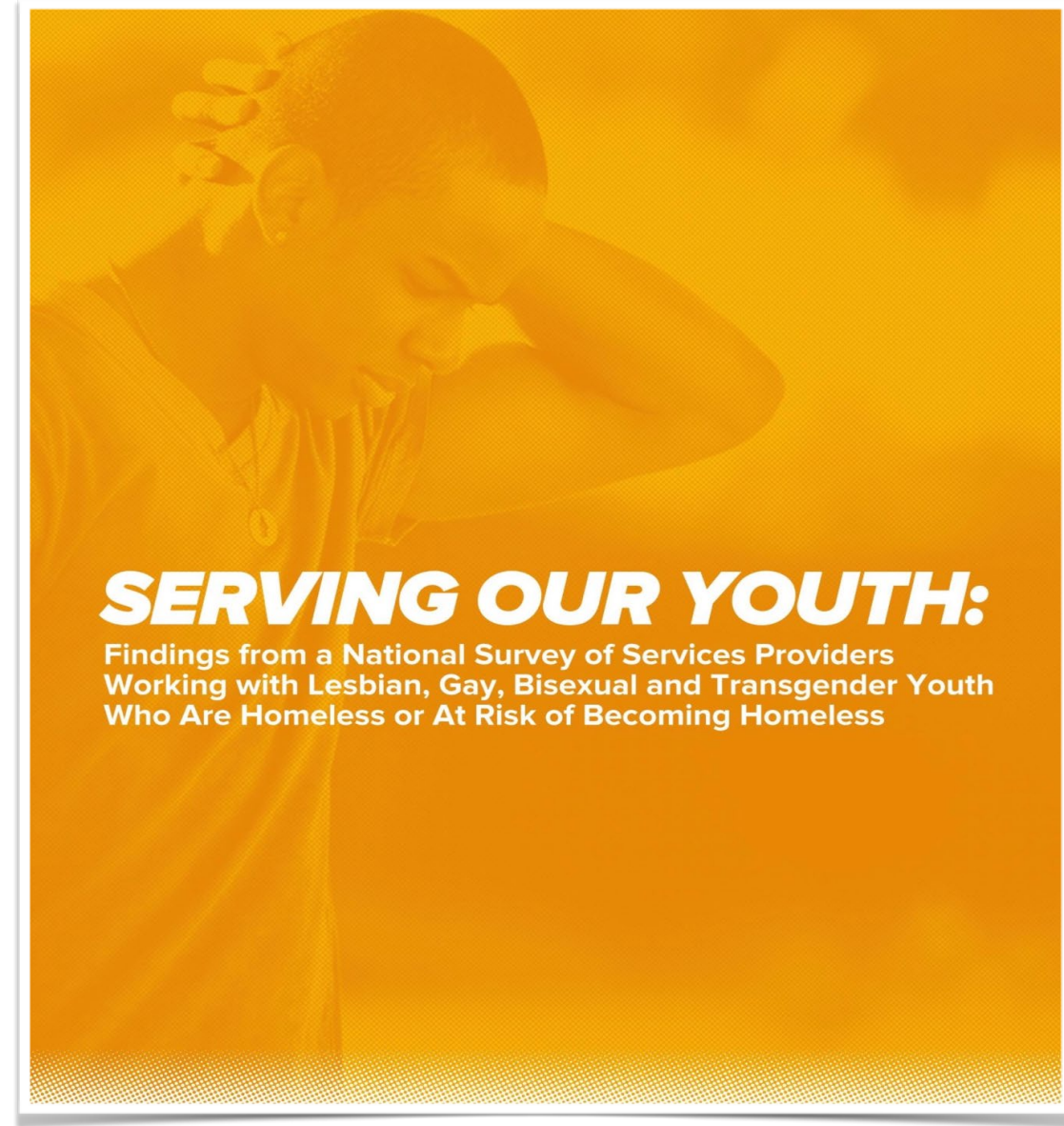
Figure 8. What percentage of the homeless LGBT youth that you serve have a history of the following?
(n=113)





1 in 4

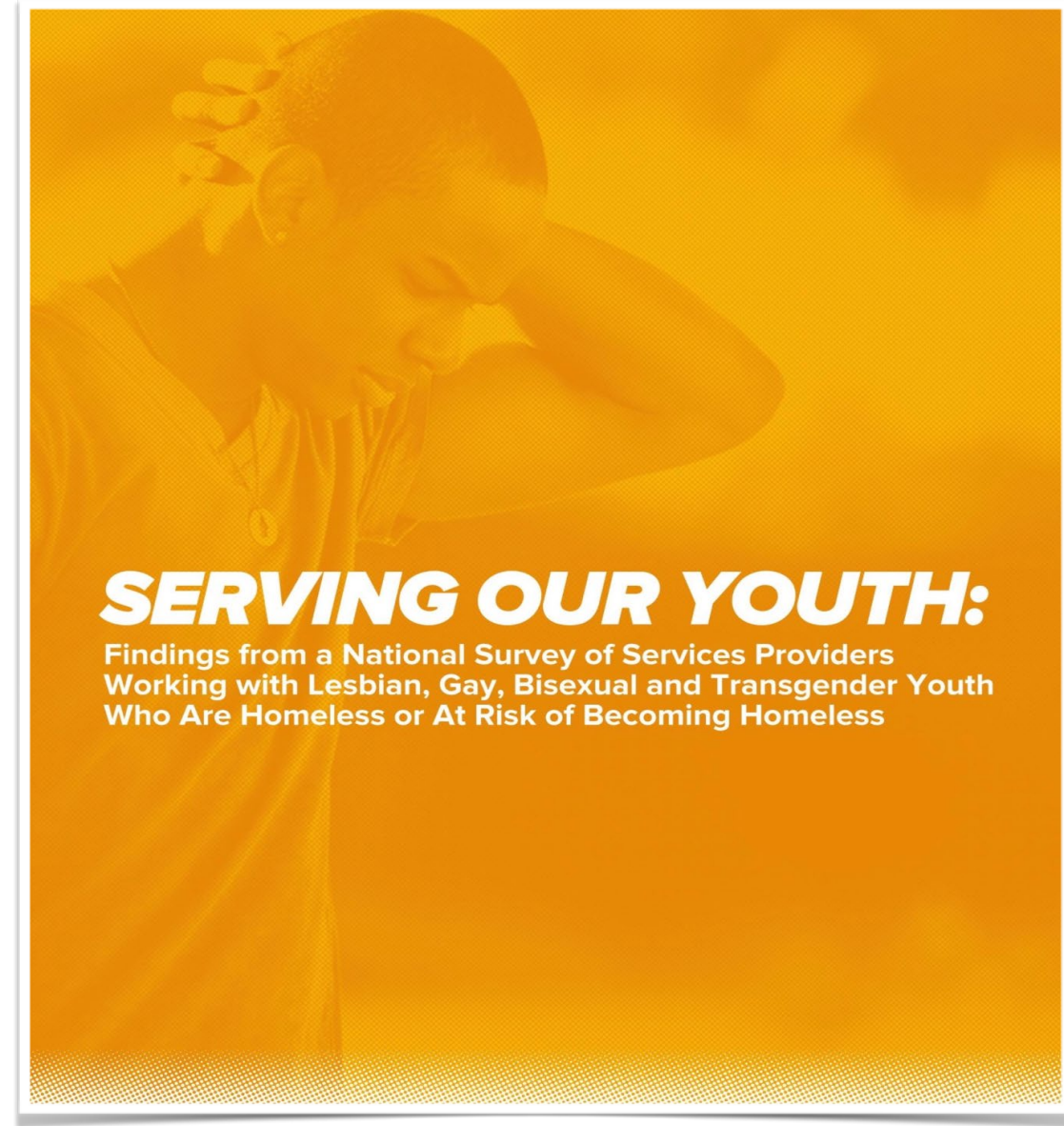
LGBTQIA homeless youth had
been subjected to sexual
exploitation and sexual assault





1 in 3

LGBTQIA youth who had been in foster care, experienced domestic violence, and had contact with the juvenile justice system



Why is it 'hard' to exit an exploitative/trafficking situation?



combathumantrafficking.org



denvercasa.org

Complexity of Self Identification

Does not Identify as Victim.



You are a victim, not a criminal. What is happening to you is wrong. Stockholm syndrome can occur.

Distrust of law enforcement or legal system.



Maintain clear communication. Keep realistic promises. Seek experts/help.

Unaware of rights.



You have rights. You have the right to live without being abused.

Possible PTSD + cultural barriers.



Awareness to triggers. You may be the first or the one of the many contacts.

Perception of choice



Victims of human trafficking have had their power and control taken away from them. If a service provider approaches them without taking their consent into consideration, the victim will likely be unwilling to participate

Trauma Bonds

- **Traumatic Bonding is a psychological theory used to define complex relationships involving power differentials and intermittent rewards and punishments.**
 - It is an unconscious strategy for survival!
 - Stockholm Syndrome is a form of Trauma bond.
- **Components of Traumatic Bonding include**
 - Threat to survival
 - Acts of kindness
 - Isolation
 - Perceived inability to escape

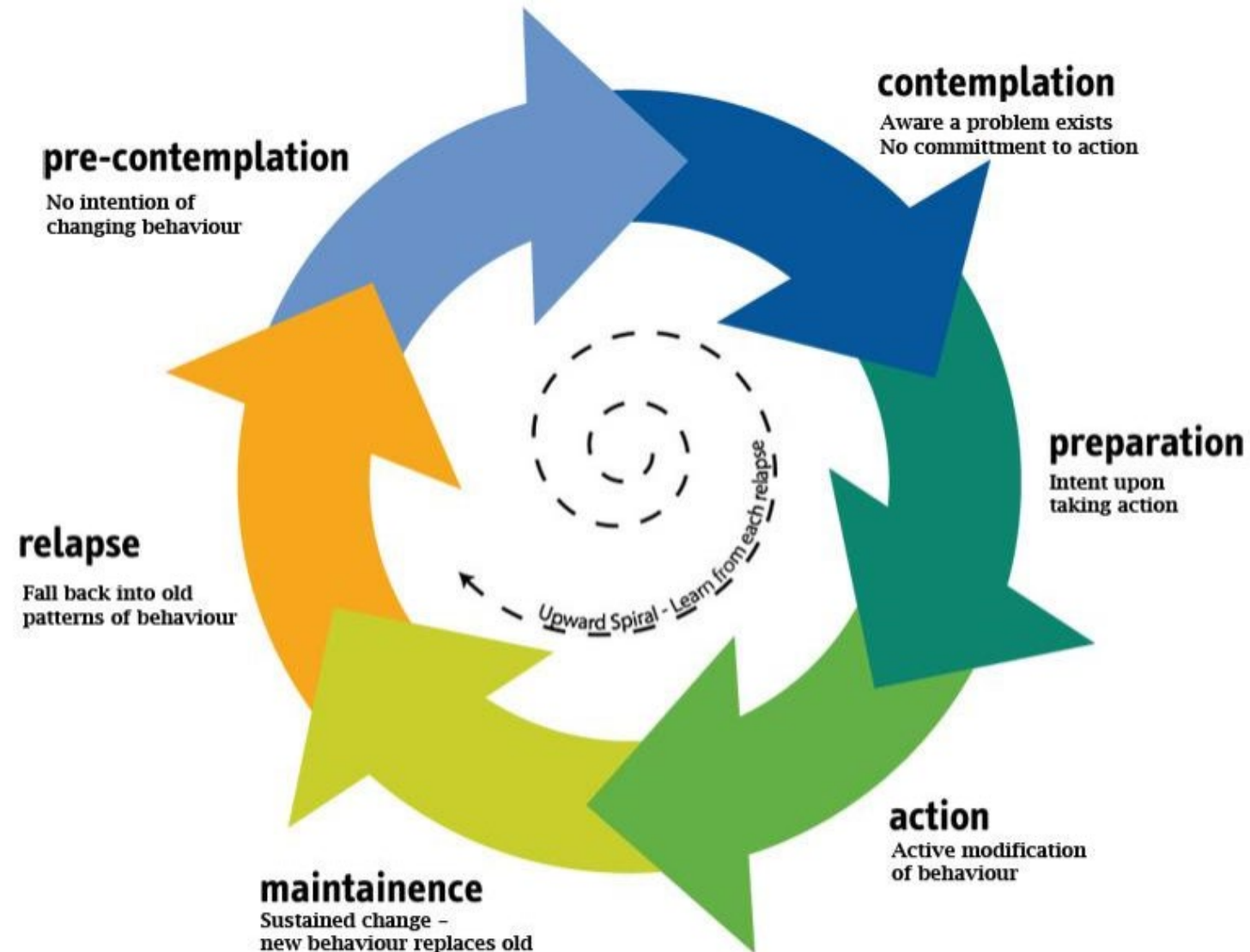
Symptoms and Indications of a Potential Trauma Bond

- Insomnia
- Flashbacks
- Distrust of others
- Confusion
- Hyper-vigilant to exploiter's needs
- Tries to keep exploiter happy to decrease violence
- Tries to get inside pimp's/customer's head
- May or may not have their own perspective
- See outside authorities/supports as "bad guys"
- Sees trafficker as "good guy", protector, victim
- Expressed gratitude towards their trafficker
- Sees world from exploiter's perspective

How they present to us

- Refuses help
- Runs away
- Aggressive
- Displays unclear or disjointed memories
- Does not identify himself or herself as a victim
- Protects the identity of trafficker

What can a CASA advocate do to promote change and encourage exit of a trafficking/exploitative situation?



Transtheoretical Model of Change
Prochaska & DiClemente

Power Dynamics- What do you have to offer?

Service Provider

- Housing/shelter
- Food
- Protection
- Punishment when not compliant
- Trivial Demands
- Top down relationship
- Acceptance
- Economic Support
- Relationship Security

Trafficker

- Housing/shelter
- Food
- Protection
- Punishment when not compliant
- Trivial Demands
- Top down relationship
- Acceptance
- Economic Support
- Relationship Security

Trauma-informed or Trauma-responsive

What are “trauma-informed” or “trauma-responsive” services?

- Incorporate knowledge about trauma into every aspect of service delivery
- Engage and empower survivors
- Minimize re -victimization
- Harm reduction
- Value self -care

Lack of trauma informed institutions

- Punishment of trauma behaviors
- Mischaracterization of 'choice'
- Example of hospitals 'missing it'
- Re-traumatization (juvenile corrections, Residential Child Care Facility, service providers who are not trauma informed)

Protocol Development

It is incredibly important to develop protocols as as soon as possible. Protocol components should include:

- Basic human trafficking indicators
- Red flags based on local trends
- Separation procedures
- Interview procedures

Protocol Development

It is incredibly important to develop protocols as as soon as possible. Protocol components should include:

- Safety planning
- Mandatory reporting
- Referral process
- Follow-up procedures

When to ask questions?

If you begin to pick up on red flags, it's time to start asking questions.

- Trust your instincts.
- Know your own comfort level.
- If you are uncomfortable, try to find another appropriate provider.

You are here to listen...

- Don't make assumptions about the person or situation
- Don't force the individual to make decisions
- Don't contact law enforcement or other providers without talking to the victim and explaining reporting obligations

Reveal

from The Center for Investigative Reporting

“No Place to Run”



What is Motivational Interviewing?

MI is a directive, client -centered counseling style for eliciting behavior change by helping clients to explore and resolve ambivalence.

The examination and resolution of ambivalence is its central purpose, and the counselor is intentionally directive in pursuing this goal

Fundamentals of Motivational Interviewing

1. Motivation to change is elicited from the youth, and not imposed from without.
2. It is the youth's task, not the CASA's, to articulate and resolve his or her ambivalence.
3. Direct persuasion is not an effective method for resolving ambivalence.

Fundamentals of Motivational Interviewing

4. This style is generally a quiet and eliciting one.
5. The counselor is directive in helping the client to examine and resolve ambivalence.
6. Readiness to change is not a client trait, but a fluctuating product of interpersonal interaction.
7. The therapeutic relationship is more like a partnership or companionship than expert/recipient roles.

Interaction Techniques: OARS

- **(O) Open Ended Questions:** A question that cannot be answered with a yes or no, that opens up a larger conversation.
- **(A) Affirmations:** Recognition of the client's strengths,
- **(R) Reflective Listening:** Listen to the client and focus on change talk. Reflect back to them what they have told you, making connections between themes.
- **(S) Summary:** Announce that you are going to summarize, list selected elements of what the clients that told you, and ask them to make meaning of these things.

Harm Reduction

- Harm reduction is a set of practical strategies and ideas aimed at reducing negative consequences associated with drug use (or any other “activity”)
- Harm reduction is also a movement for social justice built on a belief in, and respect for the rights of people who use drugs (and any other “activity”)

Harm Reduction Techniques

Safety planning is a harm reduction technique that helps to prepare an individual for situations that might lead to vulnerabilities and being exploited. It is not, condoning the choices or behavior, but rather acknowledging that the choice lies within the person and ensuring that the individual can remain as safe as possible.

A safety plan might include:

- **Run plans:** Where to sleep safely, where to access to a free phone, memorizing or safely storing numbers to call if you are in trouble
- **Safe ways to use substances:** Never credit or front drugs, only exchange cash for drugs, know who you are using with, know who you are buying from, know your limits
- **Safe work/employment practices:** Make sure you sign a contract, but ensure you never sign something you don't read first, never allow late payment for wages, keep working hours, know your rights !

As CASA advocates... what is your role?

- Respond to the why and not the behavior that is presented
- Be aware of your own biases, and the importance of language
- Create a safe place, believe what they are telling you



As a CASA advocate... what is your role?

- Listen, build trust, if they are not ready to leave their situation now, they might come back when they are
- Have protocols in place, **BEFORE** someone discloses to you



Denver CASA's Response to Trafficking

- Education
 - Reporting for CASAs
 - Pre-service training
 - Active CASA Trainings 101, 201, and 301
- REST Court involvement
 - CASAs will be assigned to REST Court cases on a referral basis
- Youth Education
 - Age appropriate training for youth aged 12 -21

LCHT's Partnership with CASA

- Available to deliver up to 7 hours of curriculum taking a deeper dive into what we discussed today
 - HT 101, 201 and 301
- Trainings are tailored to each community's local needs
 - Urban v. rural
- Email Kara Napolitano, LCHT's Research and Training Manager to coordinate a training
 - kara@combathumantrafficking.org



COLORADO'S HUMAN TRAFFICKING HOTLINE



Report Tips



**Request
Referrals**



Get Help



CALL

866-455-5075



TEXT*

720-999-9724

* Text advocates are currently available 12PM-12AM (MDT) only



QUESTIONS?



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HUMAN TRAFFICKING



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