

sexual exploitation is a disability justice issue
sexual exploitation is an indigenous justice issue
sexual exploitation is an lgbt justice issue

COMMERCIAL SEXUAL EXPLOITATION occurs when a more powerful/resourced person provides/withholds material needs (e.g., money, housing, food, transportation, drugs, alcohol, medication, etc.) to coerce sexual access to another person's body

A **SEX TRAFFICKER** is someone who recruits, facilitates, aids, pimps, or profits from the commercial sexual exploitation of another person.

COMMERCIAL SEXUAL EXPLOITATION & TRAFFICKING IN CENTRAL MINNESOTA

Did you know?... Most traffickers are known to the victim and are often partners, spouses, peers, caregivers, or relatives!

- Trafficking rarely involves random stranger abduction.
- Youth and adults experiencing housing instability (financial risk of eviction, couch hopping, unsafe living conditions - including environmental conditions, violence, or drug use in the home) are extremely vulnerable to sexual exploitation because exploiters take advantage of their economic desperation and survival needs for sexual/monetary gain
- CMSAC has found high rates of exploitation of those in local treatment centers or group homes
- CSET happens in all rural areas, cities, and towns.
- Children, youth, and adults of all ages and gender identities can be exploited or trafficked!
- Average age of first exploitation is often between 11 and 15 years. However, CMSAC primarily serves adult victims--often between ages 18-45.
- Most victims do not self-identify as victims and some may not reach out for help.
- Youth and adults are often recruited online and groomed into prostitution through social networking, employment, and dating websites/apps.
- Most victims who have been sexually-exploited were sexually abused as children.

sexual exploitation is a gender justice issue
sexual exploitation is an economic justice issue
sexual exploitation is a racial justice issue

Prostitution and Demand:

- 1 in 5 US men have self-reported buying sexual access to a woman's body in prostitution.
- Pornography use is widespread among men. However, pornography drives the demand for sexploitation, normalizes torture and violence, grooms victims, perpetuates rape culture, and promotes, facilitates, and documents trafficking.
- **Anyone** can be an exploiter. CMSAC has dealt with cases wherein religious leaders, healthcare workers, military personnel, therapists, educators, police, lawyers, and public officials have been both traffickers and sex buyers!
- Most men who buy women/children in prostitution are white, middle-aged, married, have children, have disposable income, have no criminal background, and have power and privilege over those they exploit.

Prostitution and Rape Culture

Rape culture is product of patriarchy and sexism. Examples include normalizing and eroticizing sexual violence/coercion, rape or prostitution jokes, glamorization of the sex trade, victim blaming, reframing sexual exploitation as empowerment/choice, etc.



The Central MN Sexual Assault Center serves an average of 70-100 victims of commercial sexual exploitation/trafficking each year.

The Central MN Sexual Assault Center (CMSAC) offers free counseling, support groups, safety planning, and medical and criminal justice advocacy for survivors of sexual violence (including survival sex, prostitution, stripping, escorting, pornography, exotic dancing, or erotic massage).

CONTACT US NOW:

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