



Research Review of Evidence-Based Practices for RHY in the domains of Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children/Trafficking

[Bought and Sold: Helping Young People Escape from Commercial Sexual Exploitation](#). Author: National Clearinghouse on Families and Youth. Family and Youth Services Bureau. 2010.

- One out of every three youth will be lured into prostitution within the first 48 hours of running away, according to statistics from the National Runaway Switchboard. This brochure helps shelter workers recognize young people at risk of being sexually abused or exploited, understand what victims need and provide them with services to help them leave the streets.

[Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children: What Do We Know and What Do We Do About It?](#) U.S. Department of Justice. 2007.

- This article defines CSEC and explains that it exists along a continuum. Using statistics from past years it explains the growth of the problem and how this growth is occurring, as well as detailing the different types of CSEC. This piece is helpful in understanding the larger systems within which victimized youth exist.

[Homeless Youth and Sexual Exploitation: Research Findings and Practice Implications](#). Author: National Alliance to End Homelessness. 2009.

- This issue brief reviews research regarding the involvement of unaccompanied, homeless youth in various types of sexual exploitation including survival sex and recruitment into the commercial sex industry and will recommend a series of programmatic responses to meet their needs. While research indicates that the majority of homeless youth avoid victimization in the commercial sex industry, its harmful impact on long-term health and wellness scars tens of thousands of youth annually. Current rates of victimization among homeless youth are unacceptable, and its continued existence indicates an urgent need for an increased national investment in outreach, supportive services, and housing.

[How Many Juveniles are Involved in Prostitution in the U.S.?](#) Authors: D. Finkelhor and M. Stransky. Crimes Against Children Research Center. 2008.

- There have been many attempts to estimate the number of juvenile prostitutes within the United States. These estimates range from 1,400 to 2.4 million, although most fall between 300,000 and 600,000. According to this fact sheet, a close look at these diverse estimates reveals that none are based on a strong scientific foundation. They are mostly educated guesses

or extrapolations based on questionable assumptions. They do not have the substance of typically reported crime statistics, like the number of robberies or the number of child sexual abuse victims. The reality is that we do not currently know how many juveniles are involved in prostitution. Scientifically credible estimates do not exist. This report describes the most often-cited estimates on juvenile prostitution. It contains discussions of the sources of those estimates, and problems with their validity.

[Prostituted Youth in New York City: An Overview](#). Author: M. Spangenberg. End Child Prostitution Child Pornography and Trafficking of Children for Sexual Purposes USA. 2001.

- This report presents the dynamics and ramifications of child prostitution in the microcosm of one city. It highlights the difficulty of accessing these youth and is about both what is known and what is not known regarding human sexual trafficking. The author interviews social workers, law enforcement officials, and others to paint a holistic picture of human trafficking in one city. The author is the NYC Program Director of Green Chimneys, a FYSB grantee.

[Suicide and Prostitution Among Street Youth: A Qualitative Analysis](#). Authors: S. A. Kidd and M. J. Kral. *Adolescence*, Volume 37: Number 146. 2002.

- The authors of this article present the results of a qualitative analysis of the narratives of 29 street youth in which they describe their experiences with, and understanding of, suicide. A history of attempted suicide was reported by 76 percent of the participants and the analysis revealed themes of isolation, rejection/betrayal, lack of control, and most centrally, low self-worth as forming the basis of their experiences concerning suicide. Additionally, the authors found that trading sex, in which most participants had been or were currently involved, was linked with their suicidal experiences and may account for the high attempt rate. Finally, variables related to suicide were found that have not been examined previously in the literature on street youth, including loss of control, assault during prostituted sex, drug abuse as a "slow suicide," and breakups in intimate relationships.

[Trading Sex: Voluntary or coerced? The experiences of homeless youth \(abstract\)](#). Authors: K. Tyler and K. Johnson. *Journal of Sex Research*, Volume 43: Issue 3. 2006.

- This study examined the circumstances surrounding a homeless youth's "decision" to trade sex for food, money, shelter, or drugs. Forty homeless youth in 4 Midwestern states participated in individual, in-depth qualitative interviews. Interviewers recruited youth through both service agencies and street outreach. The findings revealed that approximately one third of the sample had some experience with trading sex, whether it was in the form of having traded sex, having been propositioned to trade sex but having refused, or having friends or acquaintances that had traded sex. Young people's reports indicated that they had traded sex for things they deemed necessary in order to survive (i.e., food, shelter, money, or drugs) and that they did not want to trade sex, but did so because they were desperate and lacked alternatives. Additionally, others were coerced, manipulated, or forced to do so, indicating that the decision to trade sex is not always voluntary. We discuss the implications of these findings in terms of cumulative effects on youths' later development. Directions for future research among this population are also discussed.

[The National Symposium on the Health Needs of Human Trafficking Victims: Background Brief](#). Authors: H. Clawson, N. Dutch, and E. Williamson. U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation.

- This brief examines human trafficking from the perspective of what service providers need to know in identifying and supporting survivors.