



Human Trafficking: It is Happening in Your Communities

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Objectives

- Participants will be able to summarize human trafficking - sex and exploitation
- Participants will be able to describe Minnesota's response to human trafficking
- Participants will know how to connect with local resources to aid in their response to exploitation and trafficking

What is Human Trafficking?

When one person obtains or holds another person in compelled service.



Commercial Sexual Exploitation

Eligibility for Safe Harbor Services for Youth Ages 24 and younger



Anything of value (e.g., money, drugs, food, shelter, rent, or higher status in a gang or group)

- OR -

a promise of anything of value is given to a person by any means in exchange for any type of sexual activity.

A third party may or may not be involved.

Expanding Recognition of the Problem

Happens Everywhere

- Human trafficking impacts the lives of people everywhere, from the smallest rural community to the largest urban area.



Human Trafficking: Legal Breakdown

Action

What the trafficker did to get the victim

Recruitment, transportation, harboring, enticing, obtaining , etc.

Means

How the victim was brought into and kept in the situation

Federal:
Force, Fraud, Coercion
(except under 18 and ST)

Minnesota:
ANY MEANS

Purpose

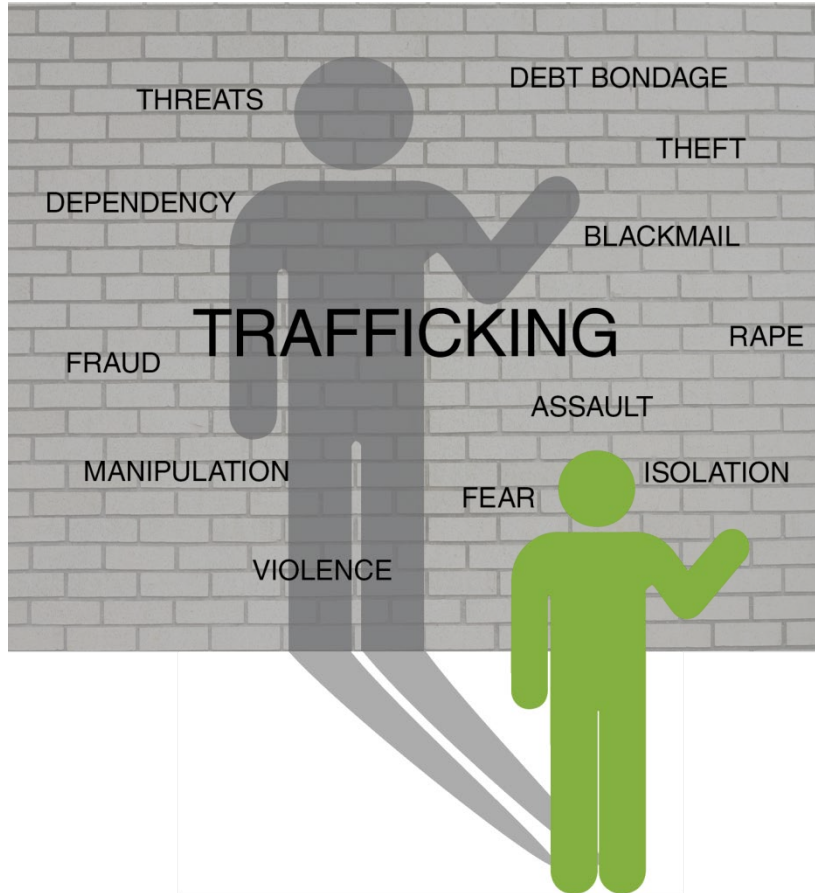
What purpose/goal?

Forced labor or debt bondage

Federal:
Commercial sex act

Minnesota:
Prostitution

What have you seen?



- What potential trafficking situations have you encountered?
- What situations have you encountered that seemed suspicious but you weren't sure what was going on?

Dynamics of Trafficking

Changing the Narrative

How does certain imagery mislead and sensationalize?



How do rumors misinform the public?

Sheriff debunks false sex trafficking Facebook posts

A false Facebook post being widely shared claims two women at McDonald's in Arden Hills were nearly kidnapped and forced into sex trafficking. The Ramsey County Sheriff wants to debunk the post.

How does it reinforce stereotypes about who the **victims** and **perpetrators** are?





Who are the traffickers?



Expanding Identification

- **Anyone** can be recruited, lured, tricked, or enticed into becoming a trafficking victim, most often through a job offer or a trusted relationship.
- Human trafficking victims include all demographics: male and female, children and adults, foreign and domestic survivors, and both sex and labor trafficking.





Who are the victims?

People may be **more** at risk to be trafficked if they...

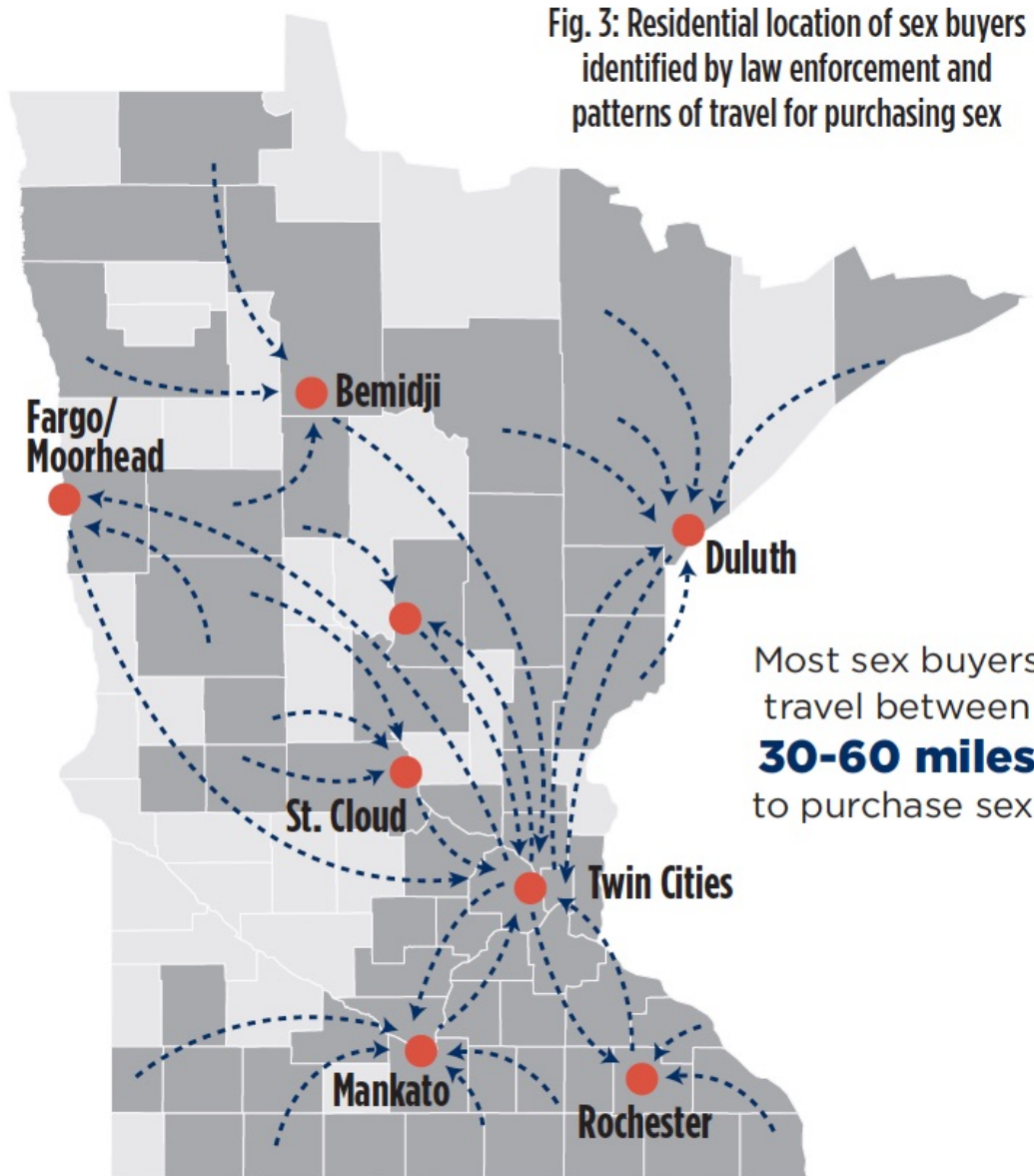
- Have mental health issues and/or chemical dependency
- Have physical and/or cognitive disabilities
- Are children or youth
- Are persons of color
- Experience historical trauma
- Are homeless
- Are lesbian, gay, bisexual, or transgender, gender non-conforming
- Lack immigration status
- Are in trouble with the law
- Are runaways
- Experience poverty



Mapping the Demand: Sex Buyers in the State of Minnesota 2017

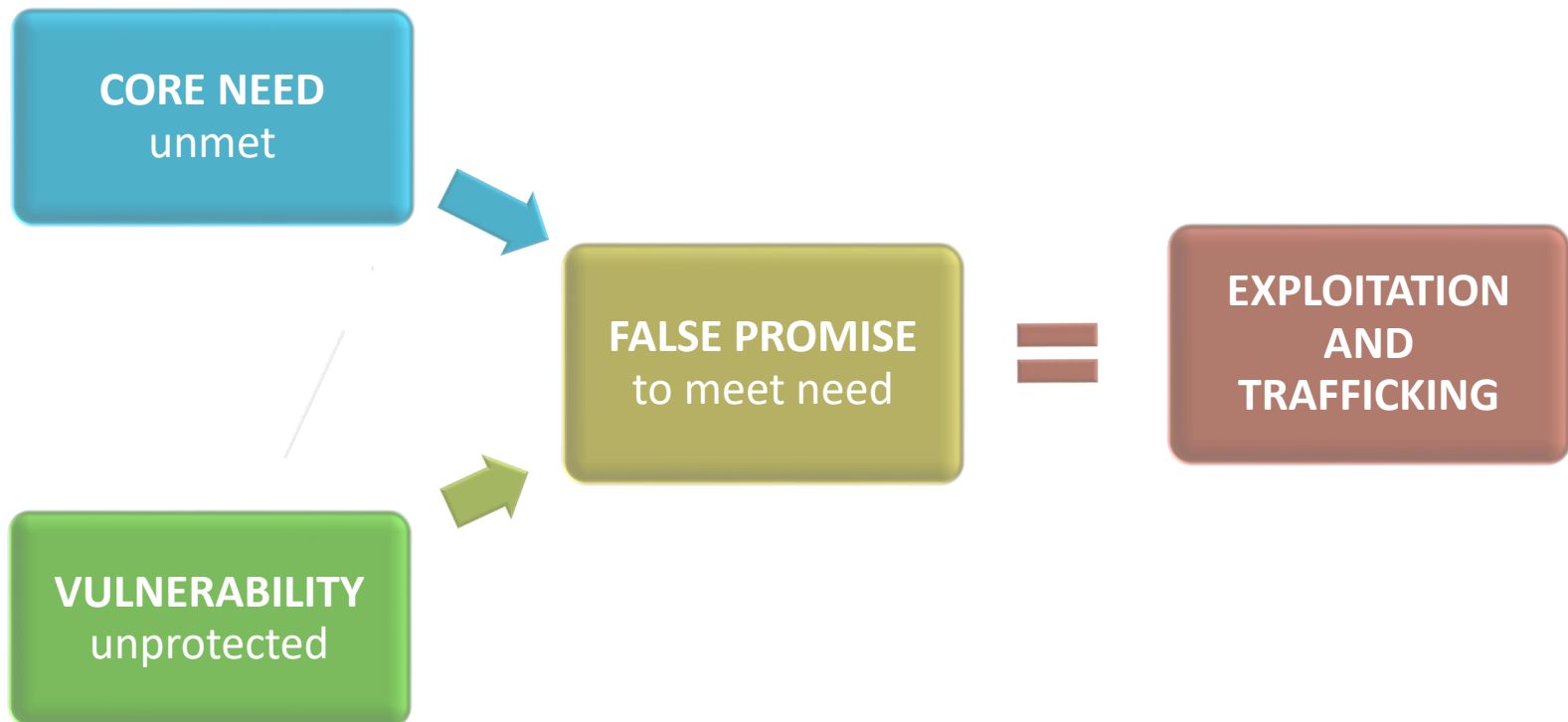
- Sex buyers are *predominantly* **middle-aged, white, married men** from across the state of Minnesota.
- Many buyers seek young adult victims, with some willing to buy sex from a minor. **Some sex buyers specifically seek out minors.**
- Most sex buyers travel during the workday between **30-60 miles** to buy sex. Some will travel farther to purchase minors or individuals in specialty market-segments.
- Buyers also purchase sex during business trips, bachelor parties, and hunting and fishing trips.

Fig. 3: Residential location of sex buyers identified by law enforcement and patterns of travel for purchasing sex



Counties with sex buyers identified by law enforcement

How Does it Happen?



Appeasement

vs

Consent

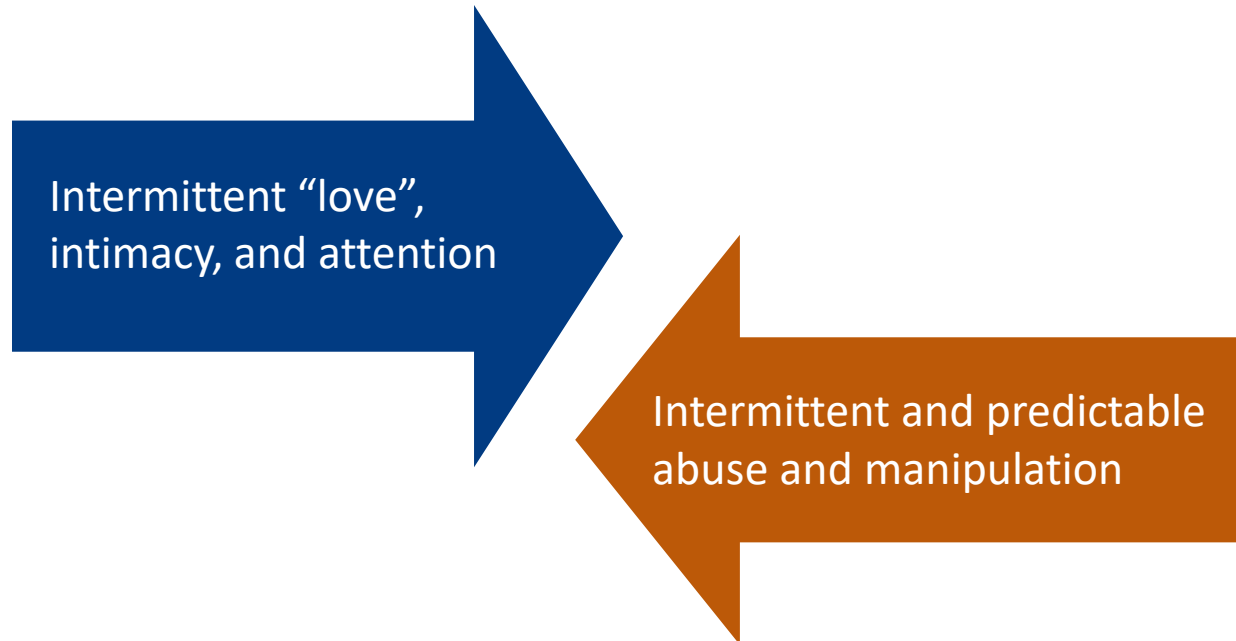
- made under duress
- given two options:
“Do what I say, or face the consequences”
- focus is on the benefit of the person enforcing the choice
- consequences are harshly enforced

- given multiple viable options to choose from
- focus is on the benefit and agency of the person making the choice
- safe environment to think about it
- consequences are a natural part of life and usually don't involve death or violence

**THIS CONFUSION OFTEN CAUSES VICTIMS TO BLAME THEMSELVES FOR
“MAKING A CHOICE”**

What is a Trauma-Coerced Attachment?

Powerful psychological manipulation by traffickers - Victims who believe they are in love with their trafficker are easier to manipulate and control.





Dynamics of Sex Trafficking



Potential Signs of Sex Trafficking

- Youth avoids eye contact, looks uneasy, is anxious or hostile
- Youth is wearing clothing that seems inappropriate for the weather and/or setting
- They are with an over controlling or abusive older person
- Youth lacks control over their schedule, money, proof of identification, and personal items
- Signs of physical trauma, including bruises, cuts, burns, scars
- Lying about age, where they've been, who they've been with, etc.
- May be carrying a lot of cash, prepaid credit cards, multiple phones



Understanding Victims

Why don't trafficking victims leave?

Fear

- Actual or threatened abuse/sexual assault/violence to self, family, friends
- Making an “example” of another victim
- Threat of criminal prosecution or deportation
- Blackmail

Dependency

- Withholding money or identity documents
- Only source of housing, food, clothes
- Posing as “friend/boyfriend/concerned relative” to induce guilt and feeling indebted
- Causing or exploiting pregnancy, chemical dependency, etc.
- Isolation from support networks, service providers, others

Psychological Factors

- “I agreed to it so it's not illegal”
- “This is my choice”
- “I've done too much to go back to a normal life”
- Mind normalizes situation as defense mechanism

Implicit Bias and Victims

“Good” victim

- White, female, vulnerable, young
- Victim is an “innocent”
- Must’ve been kidnapped
- Victim is grateful for being “rescued” and ready to leave the trafficker
- U.S. Citizen
- English speaker

“Bad” victim

- Persons of color
- Juvenile delinquency or criminal record
- LBGTQ, gender non-conforming
- Victim defends their exploiter
- Undocumented immigrants
- Males can’t *really* be trafficked – if sex trafficked, they must be gay & enjoy it



Minnesota's Response to Sex and Labor Trafficking





Safe Harbor Law

Sexually exploited youth

17 years old and under

*can no longer be criminalized for
engaging in prostitution but
should be referred to services.*

Sexually exploited youth

24 years old and under

*deserve and are eligible for
specialized, trauma-informed
services to heal and recover.*



Forms of Sexual Exploitation



Safe Harbor Statewide Services



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

- Regional Navigators and Specialized Community Services
- OVC Expansion Grant to include Labor Trafficking
- Training & Technical Assistance
- Youth Outreach Materials
- Wilder Evaluation Report



DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES

- Specialized Housing/Shelter
- Youth Outreach
- Child Protection/Child Welfare
- Vulnerable Adult Protection



- Missing and Endangered Persons
- Internet Crimes Against Children
- 3 Regional Law Enforcement Task Forces
- 1 Statewide Task Force run by the BCA: 24/7 reporting 651-793-7000
- Training/Consultation for Law Enforcement on Sex Trafficking Investigations

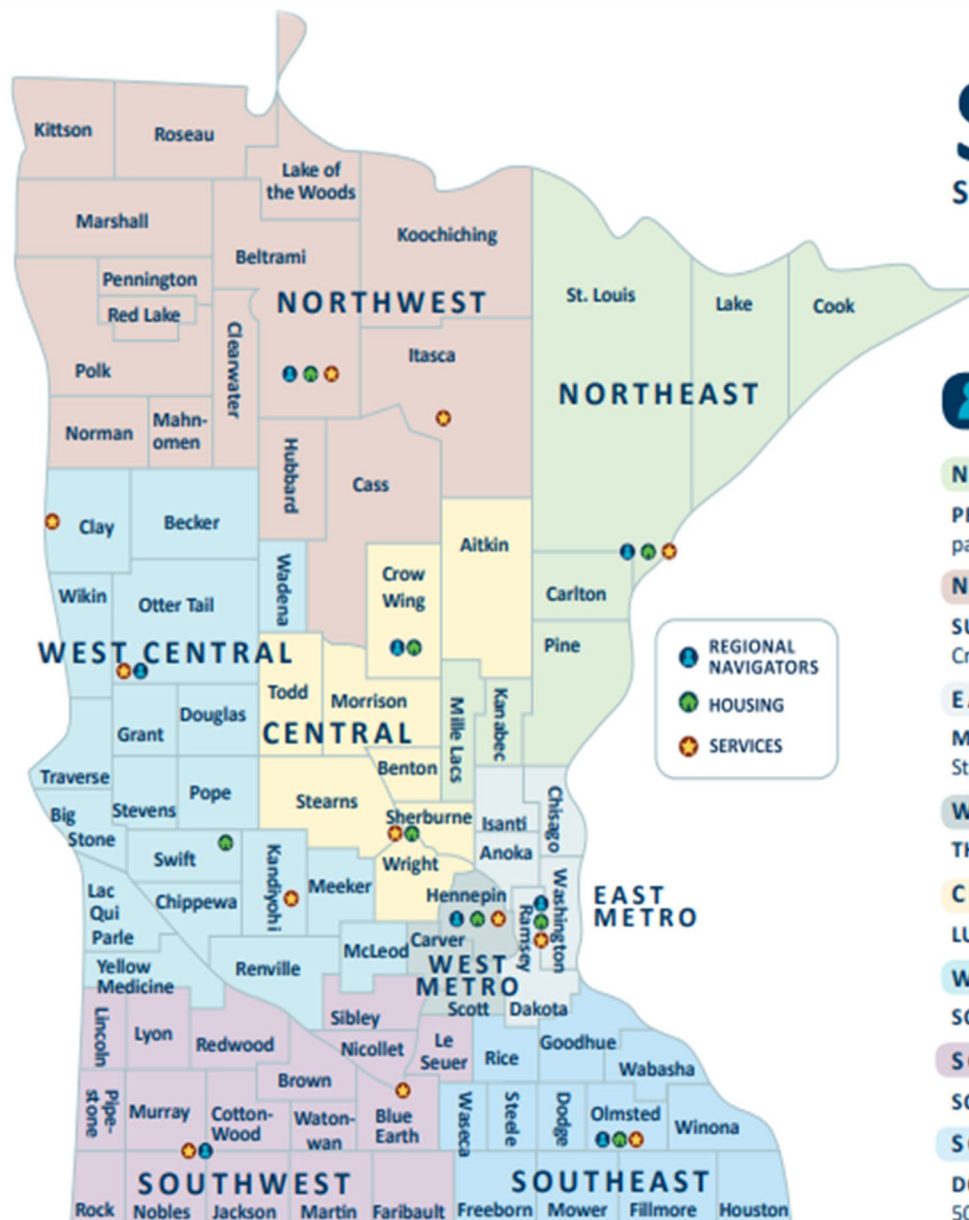


- Protocol Guidelines
- Safe Harbor Protocol Team Formation Starter Kit: A Guide for New Teams
- Protocol Implementation



Safe Harbor Services





SAFE HARBOR

SERVICES FOR SEXUALLY EXPLOITED YOUTH

Safe Harbor provides a statewide network of victim-centered, trauma-informed services and safe housing, as well as Regional Navigators who are responsible for connecting youth with services and serving as experts for their communities. To find services statewide, call the Day One Crisis Hotline at 1-866-223-1111.

REGIONAL NAVIGATORS

NORTHEAST

PROGRAM TO AID VICTIMS OF SEXUAL ASSAULT Duluth 218-726-1442
pavsa.org

NORTHWEST

SUPPORT WITHIN REACH Bemidji 218-444-9524
Crisis Line: 1-800-708-2727 supportwithinreach.org

EAST METRO

MIDWEST CHILDREN'S RESOURCE CENTER (CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL)
St. Paul 651-220-6750 childrensmn.org

WEST METRO

THE LINK Minneapolis 612-232-5428 thelinkmn.org

CENTRAL

LUTHERAN SOCIAL SERVICES Brainerd 218-824-3770 lssmn.org

WEST CENTRAL

SOMEPLACE SAFE Fergus Falls 218-739-3359 someplacesafe.info

SOUTHWEST

SOUTHWEST CRISIS CENTER Worthington 507-376-4311 mnsbcc.org

SOUTHEAST

DODGE, FILLMORE, AND OLMSTED COUNTY VICTIM SERVICES Rochester
507-289-0636 co.olmsted.mn.us/cs/victimservices

Role of Regional Navigators

Regional Experts on Exploitation & Trafficking

- Technical Assistance
- Case Consultation
- Client Referrals to Services
- Professional Training
- Community Education
- Community Engagement
- Internal Agency Response
- Multi-disciplinary Response Protocol

Northern Safe Harbor Resources

SUPPORT WITHIN REACH Bemidji

218-444-9524 Crisis Line: **1-800-708-2727**

m.pittman@supportwithinreach.org

EVERGREEN YOUTH AND FAMILY SERVICES Bemidji

218-751-8223 www.evergreenyfs.org

NORTH HOMES CHILDREN & FAMILY SERVICES

Bemidji, Grand Rapids, and Duluth

218-327-3000 www.northhomesinc.org



Prevention & Early Intervention

NOT A NUMBER

A CHILD TRAFFICKING AND EXPLOITATION
PREVENTION CURRICULUM DEVELOPED BY LOVE146



<https://love146.org/notanumber/>

Making the Connection

- How does trafficking intersect with your life?
 - How do you think you will bring this up to your friends?
 - In what situations would you be able to identify trafficking?
 - How would you respond if you identified trafficking?

Resources

- Minnesota Human Trafficking Task Force www.mnhttf.org
- Voices of Safe Harbor: Survivor and Youth Input for Minnesota's Model Protocol on Sexual Exploitation and Sex Trafficking of Youth mncasa.org
- Safe Harbor website www.health.state.mn.us/injury/topic/safeharbor/
- Don't Buy It Project, Men As Peacemakers dontbuyitproject.org
- Mapping the Demand
<https://uroc.umn.edu/sites/uroc.umn.edu/files/EXECUTIVE%20SUMMARY%20Mapping%20the%20Demand.pdf>
- The Typology of Modern Slavery: Defining Sex and Labor Trafficking in the United States 2017
<https://polarisproject.org/sites/default/files/Polaris-Typology-of-Modern-Slavery.pdf>

Questions?

Evaluations & Thank you!