Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children

What is CSEC?

The commercial sexual exploitation of children (CSEC) is the sexual abuse or exploitation of a child, for the financial benefit of any person, or in exchange for anything of value, including monetary and non-monetary benefits. All commercially sexually exploited minors are victims, regardless of the presence of force, fraud, or coercion.



Exploiter

Lloyd, R. & Orman, A. (2010) Training Manual on CSEC: Module 1

The

demand

funnels the supply



Identifying CSEC

- In possession of clothing, jewelry, or electronics they cannot afford
- Unable or unwilling to give local address or info about caregiver
- Gives scripted or defensive answers, overly protective or vague about their "boyfriend"
- Irregular school attendance, change in grades, inability to concentrate, extreme exhaustion
- Angry, aggressive, or fearful

Buyer: People who

purchase sex with

children.

- Withdrawal from friends/family
- Chronic runaway

Youth: Vulnerable

children lured into

slavery.

- Sudden change in demeanor
- Atypical promiscuous behavior



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Risk Factors

All children are at risk for CSEC; however, exploiters are master manipulators and engage in purposeful and premeditated targeting of vulnerability.

Prior Sexual Abuse

Foster Care Runaway/Homeless

- History of abuse
- Undocumented citizenship status
- Family or personal substance abuse
- Unaccepted/rejected LGBTQ+ youth
- Low self-esteem or self-worth
- Physical or developmental disabilities
- Low socio-economic status
- Unstable/unsafe home environment
- Trauma-related mental health issues
- Lack of support system & basic needs
- Gang association or involvement
- Lack of physical or online supervision
- Using words like "Daddy," "The Life," "Trick/Date", "Track/Blade," "Wifey"
- Involvement with foster care, probation, etc.

Pathways of Entry

- Seduction or coercion
- Peer recruitment
- Parents selling their children
- False advertising for employment, including sales, modeling, or acting
- Chat rooms and social media
- Gang-related exploitation
- Kidnapping, violence and force

Recruitment

Exploiters oftentimes use the following tactics to recruit, groom, and control victims:

- Warmth, affection, gifts, intimacy, & compliments
- Elaborate promises of a better life, fast \$\$\$, & future luxuries
- Physical and sexual abuse, with intermittent affection
- Fear, threats, intimidation



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