



LAST GIRL PROJECT

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Francis, 20, Young Adult, she/hers

"I sold pictures of my feet for money... so that I could like buy earrings... And I was like, "This is nothing."... But it was like, I put [the pictures] out there as like sexually charged... and like people bought them. And it's not like the most dramatic example of like selling sex for, for money, for something. But it is like, I mean... it just was completely like a normalized, chillin thing between me and my friends. And like, we thought it was funny. And like, we like would try to do it."

Welcome to the Last Girl Project's monthly newsletter, a communication providing latest updates on our research, upcoming events on trafficking, and other related news.

Through interviews with stakeholders and young adults, this project aims to understand the prevalence, drivers, and dynamics of domestic minor sex trafficking (DMST)/commercial sexual exploitation of children (CSEC) in contemporary USA.

You're receiving this newsletter because you signed up for our mailing list or have communicated with one of our researchers. We look forward to providing you with timely and useful information that directly supports your work.

DATA HIGHLIGHT

Interviews with young adults who have experienced DMST/CSEC between June 2020 and February of 2021 have begun to uncover potentially another distinct category of DMST/CSEC - one that is self-mediated but not for survival (EX: food, shelter). Out of the 83% of interviews with young adults who self-mediated, 37.5%

SO WHAT?

Exploring differences in young people experiences' in DMST/CSEC is critical to ending the problem. We are beginning to see a potentially separate phenomenon of self-mediating DMST/CSEC that's distinct from survival sex. The distinction lies in the "reasons" why; 37.5% of our interviewed young adult

engaged in trading sex for "reasons" outside of survival (where survival being trading for "essential" need, like housing). Often times young adults were minors living with their parents while engaging in sex work, and viewed it as a job for money to buy non-essential items, such as earrings. While some spoke of it as "easy money" or the only option given the job market, others mentioned feeling like they were taking advantage of how society already views them -- as sexual objects.

sample aren't engaging in DMST/CSEC for survival. Instead, they view their experience as one borne out of taking advantage of what's available to them in the job market. Our initial research is showing that the sexual exploitation of young people points to larger cultural problems - the hyper-sexualization of young people's bodies is being met with a rise in technology and poverty, and a decrease in healthy work opportunities.

WHAT'S HAPPENING

NCJTC

National Criminal Justice Training Center
Fox Valley Technical College

Child Sex Trafficking: From Suspicion to Disclosure

March 3, 2021 12 - 7:00PM EST

Virtual (Free)

March 30, 2021 10 AM - 5:00PM EST

Virtual (Free)

For their Full List of Trainings, click here

2021 Human Trafficking Speaker Series: Information Mining in Corrections & the Role of Tattoos in Trafficking

March 4, 2021 12PM - 2PM EST

Virtual (Free)

This workshop helps law enforcement, prosecutors, state attorneys, judges, researchers, local, state, and national gov. personnel learn more about the significance of tattoos in human trafficking and the use of information mining in human trafficking. Register Here



2021 Human Trafficking Speaker Series

Thursday
March 4th
10-12 MST

Virtual Event via Zoom

INFORMATION MINING IN CORRECTIONS - THE ROLE OF TATTOOS IN TRAFFICKING

Sgt. Molly McDade
Multnomah County Sheriff's Office (MCSO)

CSEC: Sex Selling and Sex Buying - How it Works

March 10, 2021 6PM-8:00 PM EST

Virtual (Free)

This workshop is going to examine different recruitment and



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grooming methods used in the commercial sexual exploitation and children through case studies. [Register here](#)

[Technologies' Impact on Human Trafficking and Social Media Exploitation](#)

March 17, 2021 4PM-8:00 PM EST

Virtual (Free)

This workshop is an in-depth study on how technology is changing human trafficking, from thinking about artificial intelligence, streaming, the role of social media in sexual exploitation, and what how to prepare for the future.

[Register here](#)

If you would like to publicize an upcoming event, please send an email to tra.tran@duke.edu with a description and a link and we will do our best to get it in the next newsletter

CONTACT US

If you work on minor sex trafficking or the commercial sexual exploitation of children and would like to be interviewed, please contact lastchildproject@gmail.com

If you have experienced minor sex trafficking, please take [this screener](#) to qualify and schedule an interview

Youth will be paid \$20 to participate in this 2-hour study with Duke University researchers, and can make an additional \$50 by successfully referring 5 friends

If you are in law enforcement, and would like to take our law enforcement survey, or would like to share the survey to your colleagues, please use this link:

https://duke.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_eRj4ZxAvzqH2QD3

[VISIT OUR WEBSITE](#)

