



LAST GIRL PROJECT

MARCH 2021 | VOL. 4

Koko, 25, Young Adult, she/hers

"And then it kind of hit me one time, I was hanging out at a football game... a junior in high school. And then some like, I think it was seventh grader....comes up to me. He was like, 'hey, you're the prostitute. Right?' And like, what the ... how did you? ... I don't know. And I don't think he really meant anything by it, it was just something that he knew... And then in my head, I'm like, 'wait, like, I'm sleeping with people for money, I guess that could like, be identified as that... [but] I didn't see it like that... So I mean, that was a huge wake up call when that little kid was like, "oh, hi [prostitute]," and I'm like, "I'm at a football game, I'm trying to live my life."

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 March of 2021 mentioned not being able to self-identify their experiences as DMST/CSEC. Self-identification is when a young person who has traded sex for a valued entity **identifies** their experiences as trafficking. Young adults spoke of

SO WHAT?

Having a young person self-identify their experiences as CSEC/DMST is crucial in understanding the problem's drivers, dynamics, and prevalence. Self-identification is also crucial for a young person's ability to access services, and even access justice, as many programs and laws are based off

needing time or therapy to see their experiences as "trafficking" and/or CSEC, and mentioned that they did not see their experiences as such during the time it was happening. This critical road block is echoed in interviews with stakeholders, who noted that the lack of self-identification created problems in legal proceedings, service accessibility, and in determining an accurate prevalence statistic.

of being able to label your experiences appropriately. If a minor does not identify their experiences as DMST/CSEC, then they would not know to look for programs or laws made for this specific population. In that sense, young adults would miss out on programs, services, and resources available to them, and their experiences are not "counted" or reflected in prevalence estimates.

WHAT'S HAPPENING



Human Trafficking 101: North Carolina

April 14, 2021 2PM - 3PM EST

Virtual (Free)

This webinar explores what human trafficking is, why it is prevalent in North Carolina, how to spot it, and how to report it. [Register Here](#)

Technologies' Impact on Human Trafficking and Social Media Exploitation

April 1, 2021 11:30AM-3:00 PM EST

Virtual (Free)

This workshop is going to examine different technologies that are being used to facilitate and combat DMST/CSEC. From crypto currency to AI, Opal Singleton will explore multiple technologies and their impact on children and adult sex crimes through an in-depth study. [Register here](#)

CSEC Training for Law Enforcement

April 9, 2021 12PM-3:00 PM EST

Virtual (Free)

This training for law enforcement uses a trauma responsive approach with an emphasis on "whole child " care when working with CSEC/DMST youth. This workshop aims to provide law enforcement with tools in how to engage with children and minors who have experienced CSEC/DMST. [Register here](#)

For more trainings, workshops, and seminars, [click here](#)





ASCENT 121

Ascent 121 Presents Build Beyond 2021 Conference

May 20-21, 2021 8 AM- 5 PM EST
Virtual (Sliding Cost)

This two day training is clinically-focused, and includes talks on different intervention techniques, treatment models, information about the trauma recovery process, and subcultures within human trafficking. [Register here](#)



Shared Hope's JuST (Juvenile Sex Trafficking) Conference

November 17-19, 2021
Washington D.C. In Person (Sliding Cost)

This three day conference brings together a variety of stakeholders focused on understanding and ending DMST/CSEC. [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, or have an event you'd like on the next newsletter, 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

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