Predicative Factors that Influence Young Women and Children into Prostitution

A study of at-risk youth

Melissa Crane

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Introduction:

The exploitation of children and young people through prostitution is not a new phenomenon, and the numbers of children involved in prostitution or sex work are still largely unknown. However, there are numerous factors that leave children and young people more vulnerable than others to become involved in this type of lifestyle. Literature reviews and studies have identified common characteristics that have led girls down this dangerous path. The juvenile prostitute is not only dehumanized, but she is also used as a sex object for adult gratification. These girls suffer exploitation, sexual harassment, and rape on a regular basis, not to mention being put at high risk of contracting HIV/AIDS and other sexually transmitted diseases. (Williamson pg. 2) These acts cause pain, humiliation, and degradation at the hands of adult customers to an already fragile self-esteem.

The objective of this literature review and study is to determine predicting factors of initiation into the life of prostitution; specifically in Northwest Ohio for the purpose of helping the Human Trafficking Coalition in their mission of assisting victims of human trafficking, and also to educate other law enforcement and social work agencies on predisposing factors that influence/force young girls into prostitution. Northwest Ohio has been marked by law enforcement and the FBI as a hub of action due, in part, to major highways, waterways, and close proximity to state and national lines. (Davis pgs. 5-7)

Some say that prostitution is a victimless crime, but minors who take money for sex are taking part in illegal activity and in turn, become victims themselves. (Child Exploitation and Obscenity Section: www.usdoj.gov) Not only does the victimization cause emotional problems for the child, but the cost of prostitution to the community is also a serious issue. Every city has the problem of dealing with this crime, but Toledo was used as a target city for this research. "On an average year in Toledo, Ohio 1437 prostitutes and prostitution related arrests are made". (www.wmich.edu/destinys-end/costs.htm) According to the literature, it was estimated that each prostitution-related offense costs the city $2025.00. Recidivism rates for these women are approximately seventy percent, and the women that use this as a profession are arrested an average of ten times. (www.wmich.edu/destinys-end/costs.htm)

This research will focus on the similarities between the girls that have been found to be actively participating in prostitution as well as girls that have verbally admitted to her probation officer of being involved in some kind of sex trade activity at least once. It is believed that there will be several similarities among those studied.

Literature Review:

This paper will review only a small portion of the literature available about juvenile prostitution. It will explain the definition of prostitution, why the study is important, how juveniles become involved, the different types of research conducted, and then will explain the significance of the study being performed as well as the variables involved with the research.

To clarify for the reader what prostitution is: For the purpose of this research, prostitution will be defined as exchange of personal interaction of a sexual nature in exchange for a commodity such as food, clothing, personal items, drugs or alcohol to support a habit, or a place to stay.

Runaway adolescents cite a variety of different reasons for leaving their homes, but many children that run from intolerable homes depend on prostitution as a means of survival. (Nadon, Koverola, Schludermann pgs. 206, 207) According to the literature, there seems to be a strong relationship between runaway behavior or being kicked out of the home and adolescent prostitution. (Nadon, Koverola, Schludermann pgs. 215, 217) For the purpose of this research, runaway behavior will be defined as any length of time away from the home for more than one month.   Juvenile prostitution is not a voluntary activity, but one that more realistically involves young people running from abusive or neglectful situations at home. (Nadon, Koverola, Schludermann pg. 206)

There can be several different reasons for adolescents to experience prostitution, but many engage in survival sex to obtain basic needs. (Williamson and Prior pg. 1) Many sell sex in exchange for food, transportation, and in some cases, to accommodate their drug habits. (Williamson and Prior pg. 5) Others lack enough food for themselves or their siblings, and/or have had gas and electric turned off at home, and resort to prostitution to fulfill their basic needs. (Williamson and Prior pg. 7) For most street youth, prostitution may be the only survival strategy available to girls that have run from their homes. This is due to their age, lack of education, and work experience, which leaves them unable to find legal and legitimate employment. They then choose to use the only commodity they feel they have left. (Walker pg. 184) Many people living in these

types of situations feel that they have no choice but to risk their own safety in order to survive. (Davis pg.7) Some even choose to stay, regardless of risk, because they become addicted to the easy money or because they are forced to stay out of the fear of being harmed by their pimp.

Children are ideal victims to fall prey to prostitution. Children, in general, have certain characteristics that make them ideal; easily led by adults, have a need for attention and affection, and when left alone, have no other option to support themselves or their family. (Rassmusson pg. 8) Depending on addiction, they may also resort to prostitution as a way to support a habit.

Pimps play a vital role in the sexual exploitation and recruitment of children because they prey on the weakness of children. Pimps often use similar tactics that batterers use when finding and recruiting children. Pimps typically target younger girls to work in their stables. There has been conflicting information in the literature about the average age of girls being recruited into prostitution, but the common age range found among the articles read was anywhere from 13-16 years old.

Recruitment can take many forms, but according to Williamson and Prior's study of youth that had been identified by probation and juvenile justice personnel, much of the recruitment happened on the streets, outside stores and malls, and while waiting to meet with their probation officers. (Williamson and Prior pg. 4) Most were approached by people that knew them through friends or from the neighborhood. Williamson and Prior identify two major pimp styles; finesse and guerilla. (Williamson and Prior pg. 5)

Finesse pimping involves manipulating young, vulnerable girls into situations where they feel obligated to do as the pimp requests to repay a debt or kindness that has

been shown. (Williamson and Prior Pg. 5) Sophisticated criminals convince them that they can earn money to survive, but they will be taken care of and have a secure and loving environment. (Child Exploitation and Obscenity Section: www.usdoj.gov) Some girls may believe that their pimp is their boyfriend and are physically and emotionally dependent on him. This may be reinforced by drugs and alcohol. (Walker pg. 184) The other type of recruitment lies through force, also known as guerilla pimping. This is when the trafficker or pimp forces his victim to work for him through the threat of physical harm. (Williamson and Prior pg. 6) Some girls report being forced to meet a quota each day ranging from $50 to $1500. If the quota is not met, the girls might suffer severe beatings. (Williamson and Prior pg. 6)

There is generally a seasoning period. This is when the girl is trained to service the customer. The process may involve rapes, beatings, and emotional battering along with experience and training. The goal is militant in style; beat the girls down until they are emotionally dependent upon the pimp, and then use the psychological manipulation to control their stable of girls. (Davis pg. 17)

Once recruited, different types of means can be used to control girls including force; physically assaulting the girls, rape, beating, burning, etc., fraud; false employment offers, false promises, withholding wages and coercion; threats to safety of self or family members. (Davis pg.12) Psychological and physical violence instills the fear needed to isolate and manipulate these children into a marketable commodity. (Davis pg.8)

There have been several studies completed to analyze the similarities found in juvenile prostitutes. Examples of similarities are previous sexual and physical abuse, drug and alcohol abuse, and the significance of being a run away or throw away. For the

purpose of this review, there are seven precursors that are commonly prevalent in leading youth into prostitution; use of drugs, use of alcohol, physical abuse, prior sexual abuse (before entering into prostitution), runaway behavior, dropping out of school, and parents that have abused drugs and/or alcohol.

According to the literature, many of the girls associated with prostitution have experienced physical or sexual abuse prior to initiation. Childhood sexual abuse victimizes and leaves one distorted about self-concept. This can then develop into misconceptions about sex due to poor self-esteem, anxiety, depression, substance abuse and runaway behavior. (Finkelhorn and Browne pg. 66-77) According to literature, numbers as high as 91% have reported suffering abuse (physical, neglect, sexual) in the home. (Williamson pg. 3-4) Parental abuse and prior sexual mistreatment is considered a typical childhood experience for juvenile prostitutes. (Brown pg. 665-679) This is not to say that all women who become involved in prostitution have been abused. (Simons and Whitbeck pg. 362) "Sexual abuse may affect the probability of prostitution indirectly by increasing the probability of participation in a deviant street culture and illegal activities." (Simons and Whitbeck pg. 362) Sexual and physical abuse may not be a direct path into prostitution, but with other circumstances and variables included, may influence the mental abilities of girls, leaving them vulnerable and unable to make appropriate choices.

Another common finding among most girls interviewed or surveyed was drug and alcohol abuse. Just as drugs and alcohol can increase the likelihood of entering into prostitution to maintain a habit of use, entry into prostitution can occur first. Prostitution can then increase the likelihood of experiencing various forms of violence that then cause a cyclical dynamic of developing a drug or alcohol addiction. Parental substance abuse

disrupts the lives of children, and girls that have parents that are substance abusers commonly take the parental role in the home. With the excessive responsibility and worries, many fail and runaway, choosing prostitution as an alternative to dealing with the dysfunction at home. (Williamson pg. 10) As stated earlier, running away then results in prostitution as a survival strategy to obtain food and other basic needs because they lack the education and resources to find legal and legitimate employment.

There have been many different research studies and findings to test for predicative factors that influence juvenile prostitution. Celia Williamson began a research study, "Child Sex Trafficking in Lucas County", based upon a 2005-2006 investigation by Toledo Police Department and the Federal Bureau of Investigation. That then led to a Grand Jury indictment of fourteen men and women from Toledo, Ohio for recruitment of commercialized child sexual exploitation. Nine underage girls were found in Harrisburg, Pa who agreed to testify in the federal case. All of the girls were originally from Toledo.

The focus of Williamson's research was to 'identify the experiences, well-being and risk factors associated with the juveniles that had been involved in prostitution'. Williamson obtained her information by conducting face-to-face interviews with participants that had been involved in the juvenile justice system. She obtained signed consent forms from the juveniles as well as their parents. The interviews were recorded, transcribed, and analyzed using qualitative methods. She conducted several hours of interviews, yielding 191 pages of data, and over 150 research codes.

Williamson goes on in her study to discuss the findings of eleven of the fourteen girls interviewed. Of the eleven interviewed, 91% experienced child abuse in their home.

Williamson also noted that along with abuse, neglect was also found to be one of the most prevalent indicators reported among the population studied. According to her findings, over half of the girls that were interviewed reported being raped by someone outside of her family, and almost 30% of the girls interviewed reported being raped by someone in her family. 14% of the girls interviewed reported being raped by someone both in and outside of her family. According to Williamson's findings, a great majority (64%) of the girls reported having one or both parents addicted to drugs or alcohol.

Another research study conducted by Lisa Kramer and Ellen Berg, "A Survival Analysis of Childhood and Adolescent Risk Factors into the Life of Prostitution in Phoenix Arizona", studied survey data that was obtained from 309 women working in street prostitution in Arizona. There were two separate sites; one group incarcerated for minor offenses and the other a voluntary program for prostitutes at the jail, resulting in a 95% response rate and 394 completed surveys. (Kramer and Berg pg. 516) Some women completed the surveys independently, but some needed the assistance of an aide in interpreting information. The dependent variable in this study was the age of entry into prostitution. Cox regression was the approach used to analyze the data. A combined risk index was utilized with four hazard models for risk ratios. (Kramer and Berg pg. 522) By using this method of analysis, it was possible to assess the impact of childhood risks and minority status on the hazard rate for entry into prostitution. This variable then shows the influences of the hazard rate for a certain type of approach relative to sequencing of events and gives suggestion to the risk factors that may accelerate the entry age into prostitution. (Kramer and Berg pg. 523) There were several significant findings in the research conducted by Kramer and Berg. One particularly interesting finding that

seemed to conflict with other research was that "white women who engaged in prostitution were more likely than minority women to have experienced sexual and physical abuse by one or more family members." (Kramer and Berg pg. 523) Another interesting finding found from the research conducted was that 'the experience of a single childhood risk factor; sexual abuse or physical abuse, appears to speed up entry into the life of prostitution'. (Kramer and Berg pg. 525) Kramer and Berg conclude by suggesting that there is a great deal of room for further investigation of predisposing factors that influence prostitution. (pg. 525)

Shu-Ling Hwang and Olwen Bedford conducted similar research into common precursors and pathways of prostitution in Taiwan. Although their research was conducted an ocean away, the body of research was relevant to this topic because it identified several similar characteristics for motivations of entry into the lifestyle. There were cultural differences found among the research. For example in Taiwan, it is not uncommon for families to indenture their children for survival or emergency needs. (Hwang and Bedford pg. 137) However, of those studied that entered the lifestyle willingly and not by force of parents, several characteristics mimicked the theories already explained. The analysis of 33 girls was conducted by interviews of juveniles working in free prostitution.

There were two stages to analyze the data. (Hwang and Bedord pg. 139) The first state was transcription of the interviews. Then there was the breakdown of the interview data. The information was then evaluated and put into categories. That information that did not fit into existing data sets was then put into new categories. The next state of evaluation was evaluating the patterns and themes that began to emerge. (Hwang and

Bedord pg. 139) The results of this information showed four similar motivating factors. The first being financial need. Most of the girls were homeless, and needed the money to survive. The others that were not homeless stated that the reason they stayed in the lifestyle was to maintain the high income and flexible working hours associated with prostitution. The second was emotional needs. Most girls showed signs of emotional stress, and some did not like discussing their lives. Hwang and Bedford concluded that the psychological stresses were probably due to repeated sexual experiences, and childhood abuse. Hwang and Bedford reported a high number of girls (90%) indicated that they had a lack of support at home, and 55% reported sexual abuse at home prior to initiation into selling their bodies for money. (Hwang and Bedford pg. 140) The third factor stated was drug related. Several girls (64%) reported being addicted to drugs and/or alcohol at the time of being involved in prostitution. (Hwang and Bedford pg. 140) The last factor indicated was identity related. By identity, Hwang and Bedford explain that the girls wanted to be involved in prostitution. Of those interviewed, 11% of them felt pride in her work. These girls did not want out of the business; rather enjoyed what they were doing and stated that they did not think of quitting. (Hwang and Bedford pg. 140)

A study conducted by Les Whitbeck and Ronald Simons from Iowa State University explored sexual abuse as a precursor to prostitution, by sampling 40 adolescent runaways and 95 homeless women. (pg. 365) The runaways were sampled by the help of two agencies that specialized in services to runaway youth. A counselor interviewed all clients in the program to obtain the results. The subjects were interviewed using closed ended questions for about 10-15 minutes and were paid $2.00

for their participation. (Whitbeck and Simons pg. 366) The variables used to determine

the correlation between the study variables were prostitution, sexual abuse, physical

abuse, criminal behavior, substance abuse, victimization, and runaway behavior.

(Whitbeck and Simons pg. 372) Multiple regression analysis was then utilized based on

different types of early abuse and involvement in deviant behavior. (Whitbeck and

Simons pg. 373)

    Of those sampled, 60% had left home three or more times. (Whitbeck and

Simons pg. 366). Over half of those sampled indicated that they had been thrown out of

their homes. (pg. 366) Much like Hwang and Bedford's research, Whitbeck explained

that several of the respondents found it hard to discuss prior sexual abuse and prostitution

behavior. He urges the reader to consider the results an underestimation. Over 40% of

the runaways reported being sexually abused by a parent or caregiver. (Whitbeck and

Simons pg. 370) Most gave this as a reason for running away. 39% reported being

beaten, and 43% of them reported being raped. (Whitbeck and Simons pg. 370)

    Whitbeck and Simons explained that, "This study tested direct and indirect effects

of relationships between early sexual abuse and prostitution and victimization." (pg. 375)

He also stated, "There was evidence that early sexual abuse indirectly increases the

chances of prostitution by elevating the risk of running away, substance abuse, and other

forms of delinquent/criminal behavior." (Whitbeck and Simons pg. 375) Results from

the study also indicate that aspects of the individual's lifestyle mediate this association.

(Whitbeck and Simons pg. 206)

    In contrast to the other research, Nadon, Koverola, and Schludermann argue that

some of these findings might not be critical for entry into prostitution. They argue that

when an 'appropriate comparison group was considered, some of these factors failed to discriminate between prostitute and non-prostitute youth'.

The authors argue that most of the research done contained serious methodological flaws. They explained that the use of exclusively incarcerated or institutionalized subjects was not an appropriate study group. They also argued that in most studies, there was not a reasonable comparison group. They also argued that in the studies that had comparison groups, they significantly differed from the study group either by age or by socioeconomic status. (Nadon, Koverola, and Schludermann pg. 209)

Based on the existing research, Nadon, Koverola, and Schludermann conducted research to find if the predisposing factors (run away behavior, sexual abuse, and family abuse of alcohol or drugs) were legitimate. The method of their research was to recruit 45 adolescent female prostitutes and a comparison group of 37 non-prostitute adolescents. They then interviewed the girls over a 16-month period using face-to-face interview format. (Nadon, Koverola, and Schludermann pg. 210) Depending on the variables, chi-square analyses were used to assess differences between the prostitute and non-prostitute groups. (Nadon, Koverola, and Schludermann pg. 213)

The findings surprisingly suggested that the prostitutes did not differ significantly from the non-prostitutes in the incidence of childhood sexual abuse. (Nadone, Koverola, and Schludermann) The findings suggested that both groups had been victims of childhood sexual abuse. The statistical findings were only a little bit higher for the study group (68% and 57%). (Nadon, Koverola, and Schludermann pg. 214) Most of the prostitutes were classified as runaways. "87% of the adolescent prostitutes reported running away from home, compared to 61% of the non-prostitute youth." (Nadon,

Koverola, and Schludermann pg. 214-215) Another surprising result found by the researchers, was that the comparison group and the study group had similar findings for alcohol and drug related abuse by parents. (Nadon, Koverola, and Schludermann pg. 215) Overall, there was not a large difference in the statistical findings.

Theoretical Framework

The literature defines no clear cut theory on the involvement of juveniles in prostitution. However, it is apparent to anyone reading the information that several key indicators are common in nature. There seems to be a connection in how a woman's or a girl's sexuality is used as a means of survival. Girls sell their bodies as a means of obtaining food, clothing, shelter, etc. Girls with limited skills and who are unable to find shelter tend to be easy prey for pimps who promise money, friendship, and a place to stay. According to the literature, a number of the juveniles that were engaged in prostitution grew up in abusive and or neglectful homes, had economic pressures stemming from runaway behavior, and had drug or alcohol problems within their family. The girls' sense of psychological and physical well-being were impacted by their experiences, resulting in a poor self-esteem and limited resources to help them avoid the life of prostitution. One might argue that this could be considered Feminist Perspective Theory; that these girls are forced into this lifestyle as a result of economic situations and other coercions. Their choice might be constrained. If it is their choice to sell their body, it is because of a patriarchal system that is encouraging them by creating a supply and demand situation. The feminist perspective suggests that this patriarchal system

encourages girls into prostitution because their bodies can be used as a commodity. The message is sent that their bodies can be bought and sold in exchange for what they need.

Others might argue that there is an obvious law-violating choice being made by these girls that needs deterrence and 'just desert' punishment. This theory, Rational Choice and Deterrence Theory, is used frequently in the Criminal Justice field to explain deviant and criminal behavior. (www.umsl.edu/keelr/200/ratchoc.html)   For those girls that continue in the profession of prostitution, some in the judicial system think that prostitution is a choice.   She, the juvenile, is a rational person choosing her behavior based on rational calculations for a cost benefit. She is choosing to risk violating the law after considering her situation and deciding to commit the offense out of need of money, shelter, drugs, food, or other tangible goods. **It is the opinion of this researcher, that this theory seems very victim blaming, and minimizes the short and long term effects that prostitution and human trafficking has on these juvenile girls.**

"Prostitution is often viewed in feminist theory as the *sine qua non* of the Female condition under patriarchy." (Scoular 343-355.) Scoular explains that prostitution is a morally undesirable profession because it is a graphic element of how men have a dominating superiority over women. Scoular explains that this is a key example of what Feminists fight for.   Because these women and girls have few skills and education to assist them in the job market, they are forced to use the assets that each of them have to survive.   "Radical feminist insights into prostitution have done most to highlight the harms experienced by women in this area and have illustrated the inequalities in prostitution within the context of a gendered analysis of the state and sexuality." (Scoular 343-355)

Hypotheses and Variables

Based on existing data and review of the literature, it is predicted that seventy-five percent or more of the adolescents involved in this study will have four or more of the following independent variables: will be runaways or will show a pattern of runaway behavior, will have experienced childhood sexual abuse, will report having been abused physically by caregivers or parents, will have used or are addicted to drugs or alcohol or come from a family of addiction: parent or caregiver. It is also predicted that seventy-five percent or more will be of a minority group and most of the girls will have dropped out of school or are doing very poorly in school when they attend.

The study group will consist of twenty-five case files provided by the Court of Common Pleas; Juvenile Division. The files will be of female offenders that have been arrested for prostitution related offenses or have admitted being involved in some kind of sex trade activity at least once. A sample of existing data will be taken for secondary data analysis from the intake forms and probation files that are used at the facility for treatment and court purposes. The forms are confidential in nature and for the safety and security of the girls, the names will be omitted. Each will be given a case-number that will be used in place of name. The intake forms have open ended and close ended questions, and the probation files will have written excerpts from probation officers as well as staff and clinical personnel. The questions range from basic demographic background, school or academic level, number of previous sexual partners, drug/alcohol abuse, sexually transmitted diseases, family background, etc. The information being

taken from the files is; age, race, drug and alcohol use, physical and sexual abuse, runaway behavior, and parental drug and alcohol usage.

A frequency distribution analysis will be used to evaluate the information obtained for this research. A frequency distribution is a tabulation of the values that one or more variables take in a sample. The samples evaluated will compare the independent variables and a combination set of variables to assess the relative frequency.

The dependent variable in this study is the participation in prostitution by the subject, and the control variables will be age and race. The null hypothesis is that there will be no relation between juvenile prostitution and the independent variables. The alternative hypothesis is that a great majority of the study group will have similar outcomes when compared against the data for predicative factors. It is believed by this researcher that the following four independent variables will have the highest frequency among the information being analyzed; drug use, prior sexual abuse, alcohol use, and runaway behavior.

This information will be used to identify risk factors and predisposing elements for the purpose of assisting professionals in determining and implementing intervention programs to assist at risk youth.

Data Analysis

There were twenty-five subject files available for review that had been provided to this researcher. All of the subjects had either been arrested for solicitation charges or had verbally admitted to being involved with prostitution while under the age of 18. It

took approximately sixteen hours to completely review all of the files for the information

needed to conduct the research. Because the information provided in files came from

girls probably unwilling to divulge information to her probation officer; the following

data is considered to be an underestimation.

The mean age at the time of initial prostitution activity was 15-16 years old. The

actual range evaluated was between 12 years and 17 years of age. Approximately fifty-

two percent of the girls evaluated were between the ages of 16 years and 17 years of age

when they first experienced prostitution.

Age At Onset

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	12-13	4	16.0	16.0	16.0
	14-15	8	32.0	32.0	48.0
	16-17	13	52.0	52.0	100.0
	Total	25	100.0	100.0	

Statistics

Age At Onset

N	Valid	25.0000
	Missing	.0000
	Mean	2.3600
	Std. Error of Mean	.1514
	Median	3.0000

Seventy-six percent of the girls (nineteen) evaluated were African American, and

the other twenty-four percent (six) were Caucasian.

Ethnicity

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	African American	19	76.0	76.0	76.0
	Caucasian	6	24.0	24.0	100.0
	Total	25	100.0	100.0	

Reported use of illegal substances was high. Ninety-two percent reported using illegal drugs, and many reported using prostitution as a way to support her drug habit. Alcohol use reported was fifty-six percent. Fourteen girls reported using alcohol on a regular basis.

Subject Abuses Illegal Drugs

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Yes	23	92.0	92.0	92.0
	Unknown	2	8.0	8.0	100.0
	Total	25	100.0	100.0	

Subject Abuses Alcohol

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Yes	14	56.0	56.0	56.0
	No	7	28.0	28.0	84.0
	Unknown	4	16.0	16.0	100.0
	Total	25	100.0	100.0	

A pattern also emerged upon reviewing the data of the girls that admitted to using drugs and alcohol regularly; fifty-six percent of the parents also had drug and alcohol

related addictions. One subject reported that her mother was a crack addict that spent all of the family money on drugs. The file reflected a statement from the subject to her probation officer, "Mom spends all the money on crack, so I don't have no money for clothes or shoes. I stole a gun and sold it to have money for my drugs too."

Another subject reported being given marijuana by her mother at the age of five, and alcohol and cocaine by the mother's boyfriend at the age of six. This subject also reported the mother's boyfriend gave her IV drugs at the age of five years old to 'calm her down'.

One subject stated that she began using marijuana with her father at a very early age. She also stated that she began prostituting to support her crack habit. This subject was sent to Pennsylvania to work the truck stops. The subject stated that she was 'so high on crack' that she couldn't remember when she got there, how she got there, or how many men she had been with. This subject reports being addicted to cocaine since she was twelve or thirteen and crack since she was thirteen.

Parents Drug or Alcohol Abuse

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Yes	14	56.0	56.0	56.0
	No	3	12.0	12.0	68.0
	Unknown	8	32.0	32.0	100.0
	Total	25	100.0	100.0	

Approximately half of the subjects reported being physically and sexually abused prior to initiation into prostitution. For the purpose of this research, it is believed that all girls under the age of eighteen that have been involved with human trafficking and

juvenile prostitution are considered victims. However, the evaluation of physical and sexual abuse that is being evaluated in this report is **prior** to initiation into the lifestyle.

One subject reported being physically abused by her mother and sexually abused by her mother's boyfriend and other men so many times that she can't count or remember all of the men that abused her. Note: this is the same subject that was given drugs at five and six years old.

Another subject reported being beaten by her father so badly with an extension cord that she could not sit or go to school for several days due to the pain.

Physical Abuse

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Yes	14	56.0	56.0	56.0
	No	3	12.0	12.0	68.0
	Unknown	8	32.0	32.0	100.0
	Total	25	100.0	100.0	

Sexual Abuse Prior

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Yes	13	52.0	52.0	52.0
	No	3	12.0	12.0	64.0
	Unknown	9	36.0	36.0	100.0
	Total	25	100.0	100.0	

According to this study, there is a strong relationship between leaving home, dropping out of school, and adolescent prostitution. Ninety-two percent of the girls reported running away from home. Some of them ran away several times. Ninety-six percent of the girls reported dropping out of school, or doing so poorly and getting into trouble so frequently that they were expelled or suspended from school. As part of their probation requirements, all of the girls evaluated in this study were required to attend school or make efforts to complete her GED.

Many of the subjects were chronic runners. One subject's mother stated to the probation officer, "She started running when she was eleven. She runs so much that I lost count. She's only been home about thirty days in the last two years." This subject had been sent on a bus by her pimp to work in Washington DC and was found by the FBI in a human trafficking sting.
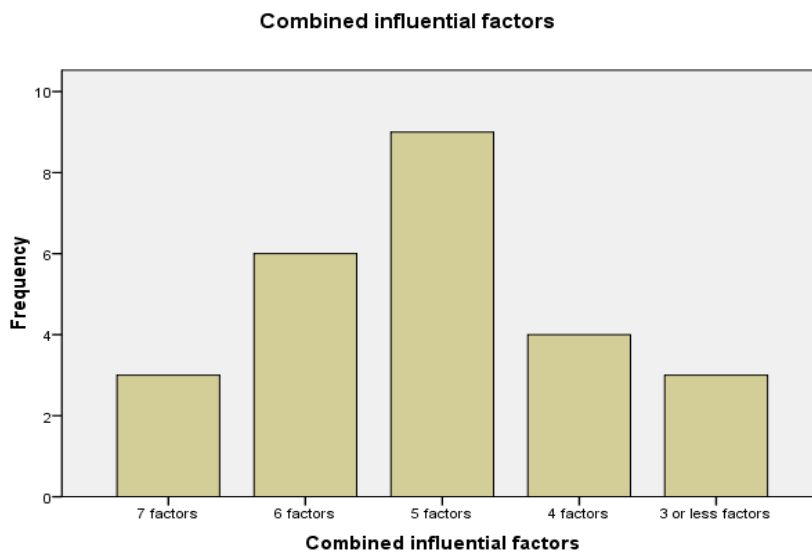
Runaway From Home

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Yes	23	92.0	92.0	92.0
	No	2	8.0	8.0	100.0
	Total	25	100.0	100.0	

School Drop Out

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Yes	24	96.0	96.0	96.0
	No	1	4.0	4.0	100.0
	Total	25	100.0	100.0	

The combined influential factors show that of the twenty-five subjects evaluated, twelve percent of them have seven independent variables, twenty-four percent have six independent variables, thirty-six percent have five independent variables, sixteen percent have four independent variables, and twelve percent have three or less independent variables. This proves the hypothesis that seventy-five percent or more of the subjects will have four or more independent variables.

Combined influential factors

Combined influential factors

The variables with the highest reported frequency were; dropping out of school (ninety-six percent), then running away (ninety-two percent) and drug use (ninety-two percent), and finally alcohol use, physical abuse, and parents using drugs or alcohol (fifty-six percent).

Conclusion

Child prostitution is a global problem. The myth that 'it only happens in the big cities' is false. For this problem to decrease in size, many steps must be taken at a local level as well as the government and judicial level. Through identifying contributing

factors, recording the magnitude and effects of the problem, and assisting those that need the help, we can help to eliminate children being forced into the sex industry.

Early intervention and identification is paramount to enabling health professionals, law enforcement personnel, and parents to assist at risk youth. Referrals to social service programs such as Wake up Youth and Second Chance in Toledo Ohio are necessary interventions that must take place to assist these girls. It is noted that by reviewing the subject cases, many individuals were on probation prior to entry into prostitution. Therefore, by providing this research information to professionals, girls who have many of the outlined variables could be identified and helped prior to entrance into prostitution.

Work must be done to increase the awareness at the judicial level to minimize the trauma to the child. Arrest and incarceration of victims only serves to retraumatize them. Decriminalization of the children involved in prostitution has been argued for at the government level. By putting more emphasis on this crime to children, political debate would bring about more societal awareness. Lobbying for change must be persistently pursued for any change in the law to take place. As society works to change its views on human trafficking and child prostitution, we must also encourage the judicial system to change its views on the offenders and the punishment for these offenders. Legislation for sex offenders has been a hot topic lately; as it should be. Without the demand, the service would minimize.

Without question, it is more than a mere tragedy for any young child to have participated in prostitution. Prostitution and any type of sex trade robs them of their innocence; something that can never be returned.

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