



OCTOBER 2022

PATH EDUCATION

ACES - Adverse Childhood Experiences

By Sinnah Litsey

Human trafficking is the third largest and fastest growing organized crime in the world that lures victims through acts of force, fraud, or coercion. Although there are many forms of trafficking such as domestic servitude and forced labor, in the United States sex trafficking has been recorded in every state. In the article, Youth Experiences Survey (YES): Exploring the Scope and Complexity of Sex Trafficking in a Sample of Youth Experiencing Homelessness, author Middleton et al., stated 70% of the victims documented are young people who fell victims to sex trafficking (Middleton et al., 2018). Additionally, another article, Sex Trafficking Red Flags: Confirming Presentation Patterns and Childhood Adversity Risk Factors, indicated that age 13 is the average age of sex trafficked victims in our country (Kennedy et al., 2021). Consequently, factors that make them vulnerable to sexual exploitation are being in a dysfunctional home, domestic violence, mental illness, sexual abuse, poverty, parental substance abuse, drug addiction, and running away from home (Kennedy, et al., 2021, p. 1). Sex trafficking has long term health effects from the constant abuse and mistreatment on an individual's body and their mental health.

These factors identified above are known as Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACE's). The ACE score is compiled of questions that touch on different personal aspects of a person's childhood such as challenges within their home environment, abuse, and neglect. If a person scores four or higher, they are at a higher risk of trafficking, alcohol addiction, and experiencing negative outcomes such as mental and physical health problems later in life (Middleton et al., 2018). Furthermore, youth who have been exploited through sex trafficking had been reported to score higher on the ACE than those who have not been trafficked (Middleton et al., 2018). Therefore, it's critical that communities are not only aware of the risk factors for youth but also the potential struggles they may face if they are not provided with the proper help and guidance. Providing trauma-informed intervention services and treatments for the vulnerable,

training professionals and people within the community on the seriousness of human trafficking would prevent children and victims of high ACE scores from falling victim of trafficking by helping them gain healthy coping mechanisms.

An organization within Louisville that focuses on helping victims develop healthy coping skills is Scarlet Hope. PATH had the opportunity to present to Scarlet Hope staff in September. Scarlet Hope is a nonprofit faith-based organization whose mission is to help women in adult entertainment. This organization provides fresh and new opportunities for victims who desire to be elsewhere by teaching them life skills, health and wellness, and other skills necessary to instill self-determination and resilience.

References

Jennifer S. Middleton, Maurice N. Gattis, Laura M. Frey & Dominique RoeSepowitz (2018) Youth Experiences Survey (YES): Exploring the Scope and Complexity of Sex Trafficking in a Sample of Youth Experiencing Homelessness, *Journal of Social Service Research*, 44(2), 141-157, DOI: 10.1080/01488376.2018.1428924

Kennedy, M. A., Arebalos, M. R., Ekroos, R. A., & Cimino, A. N. (2021) *Sex Trafficking Red Flags: Confirming Presentation Patterns, and Childhood Adversity Risk Factors*. Elsevier

Sharing Jesus with women in the adult entertainment industry. Scarlet Hope. (2022, September 16). Retrieved October 20, 2022, from <https://scarlethope.org/home-2020/>

Resources

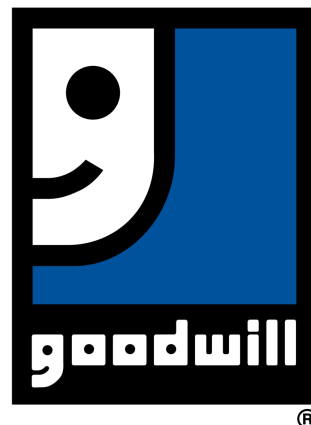
<https://www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention/aces/index.html>

<https://youtu.be/8gm-INpzU4g>

[What ACEs/PCEs do you have? « ACEs Too High](#)

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As part of our grant through the Metro United Way, we presented Human Trafficking 101 to the Goodwill Elizabethtown Opportunity Center. 33 Goodwill employees learned how to recognize human trafficking. Dr. Theresa Hayden, PATH Treasurer, and Jan Van Zant, presenter, also learned a tremendous

amount about the Goodwill. As its' TV commercial says, Goodwill is more than just stores. PATH learned how the opportunity centers provide all kinds of resources for Goodwill clients - from medical and dental support to job interviewing and resume building skills. There are currently 4 Opportunity Centers throughout the Commonwealth with plans to add an additional 7.



On October 27th, Dr. Theresa Hayden, PATH Board treasurer, again presented Human Trafficking 101 to students in an advanced nursing community health class at Bellarmine University. Dr. Hayden presented this same training in September as well.

Nurses and healthcare workers are on the front lines of seeing trafficking in action and need to know how to recognize it. Thank you to Bellarmine's School of Nursing for recognizing the significance of this training.



PATH IN THE BOARDROOM

Hispanic Heritage Month ended on October 15. One of our wonderful board members, Dr. Patricia Bautista-Cervera, took the time to tell us a little more about herself.



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