



Welcome! We will begin at 2 p.m. ET

- Please enable your speakers for audio.
- It is always a good idea to close other windows while viewing the webinar.
- To ask a question during the session, use the chat tool to send a message to the moderator/host.
- At the end of the session, you will be directed to a webinar feedback form.
- For problems during the webinar, please contact PGI Technical Support at 888-569-3848.



[LIKE Us On Facebook @ OJJDP TTA](#)

Learn About Upcoming Trainings and Additional Resources

www.facebook.com/ojdp tta



Commercial Sex Trafficking – Research Findings To Support Investigations: American Indian Persons Part III

Tuesday, September 26, 2017

2 p.m. ET



Webinar Tips

- To download a copy of the PowerPoint slides and other pertinent handouts, use the Handout Pod in the upper right-hand corner of your screen. Select the name of the handout(s) you want and click the “Download File(s)” button.
- You must enable your computer speakers prior to entering this event. If you are unable to hear the audio, try logging out, turning on your speakers, and then logging back in. There is no conference number associated with this event.
- If you experience technical difficulties during the webinar, please send a **private chat message** directly to the host.



Adobe Platform Information

Chat Box – To send a chat message to the host, a panelist, or another attendee: 1) Click the menu icon in the upper-right corner of the Chat pod. Choose Start Chat With, and then select Hosts, Presenters, or specific attendees. 2) Type your message into the text box. 3) Hit Enter or click the message bubble icon to send.

The screenshot shows a meeting window titled "OJJDP FamEngage PowerPoint 2.11.13 Final2.pptx". The main content area displays a slide with the following text:

Welcome! We will begin at 2:00 p.m. ET

- Please enable your speakers for audio.
- It is always a good idea to close other windows while viewing the Webinar.
- To ask a question during the session, use the chat tool to send a message to the host.
- At the end of the session, you will be redirected to an evaluation.
- For problems during the Webinar, please contact PGI Technical Support at 888-569-3848.

On the right side, there is a "Handouts" panel with a table of files:

Name	Size
NC4YC Final Handout.docx	65 KB
OJJDP FamEngage PowerPoint 2.11.13 Final2.pptx	1 MB
Presenter Bios and Photos - February 13 Webinar.docx	1 MB

Below the handouts is a "Chat (Everyone)" window. A yellow arrow labeled "1" points to the "Start Chat With" menu icon in the top right corner of the chat window. A second yellow arrow labeled "2" points to the text input field at the bottom of the chat window. A third yellow arrow labeled "3" points to the message bubble icon at the bottom right of the chat window.



Help Us Count!



If you are viewing as a group, please go to the chat window and type in the number of additional people joining you today.

If you are viewing by yourself, there is no need to type anything at this time.



Online Evaluation



Please take 5 minutes to complete the online evaluation, which will be accessible at the conclusion of this webinar.



Certificate of Attendance



Attendees will receive an automated thank you email with an included Certificate of Attendance.



Webinars on OJJDP's Online University

OJJDP Online University

Offering cost-effective, cutting edge, on-demand training for the juvenile justice and delinquency prevention field

The screenshot displays a grid of six webinar topics, each with a representative image and a title box below it:

- Defending Childhood**: Image of a young girl's face.
- Juvenile Justice Reform**: Image of a hand holding a gavel.
- Family and Youth Engagement**: Image of a family sitting together on a couch.
- Trauma-Informed Care**: Image of a person covering their face with their hands.
- Supportive School Discipline**: Image of a person walking with books.
- Racial and Ethnic Disparities/DMC**: Image of two young boys talking.

To the right of the grid is a sidebar with the following text:

- Defending Childhood/Children Exposed to Violence** (in orange)
- Trainings**
- Resources**
- TTA Providers**

At the bottom right of the sidebar are navigation controls: a pause button, a "Prev" button, "1 of 14", and a "Next" button.

This event will be archived on OJJDP's Online University.

For the audio recording and support materials,

visit www.ojjdpou.org



Moderator

Melissa Blasing

Project Coordinator

National Criminal Justice Training Center
of Fox Valley Technical College





AMBER Alert

Training and Technical Assistance Program

Mission: To safely recover missing, endangered, or abducted children through the coordinated efforts of law enforcement, media, transportation, and other partners by using training and technology to enhance response capacities and capabilities and increase public participation.



Visit

<https://ncjtc.fvtc.edu/amberalert>



EXPLORE TRAINING
Browse categories and programs

DISCOVER ON DEMAND
View elearning and recorded webinars

FIND RESOURCES
Download or view digital assets



AMBER Alert

The AMBER Alert Training and Technical Assistance (T/TA) Program brings you a wide variety of training opportunities to improve the investigative response of local, regional, state, and tribal law enforcement to high risk victims, children in crisis and the commercial sexual exploitation of youth. Through this program, you will increase collaboration, improve skills, and develop effective policies and best practices to protect and safely recover missing, endangered, and abducted children.

AMBER Alert training courses can be hosted by local, regional, state and tribal law enforcement training academies, agencies, or organizations. We encourage you to collaborate with your law enforcement, public safety and non-profit partners to identify your training needs and bring training to your community.



REQUEST TRAINING

Need custom training to address your unique needs?
We can help.

LET'S GET STARTED!





Presenter



Dominique Roe-Sepowitz, MSW, Ph.D.
Associate Professor, Director,
Office of Sex Trafficking Intervention Research
Arizona State University



American Indian and Alaskan Native Persons and Commercial Sexual Exploitation

- Challenges of conducting research on sex trafficking.
- Challenges of conducting ethical research with American Indian and Alaskan Native persons.
- Previous research on sex trafficking among American Indian and Alaskan Indian persons.
- Current study of sex-trafficked American Indian persons.



Challenges of Conducting Research on Sex Trafficking Victims

- Limited awareness in the community, particularly in schools, regarding sex trafficking risks and procedures on how to report minors.
- Limited screenings for sex trafficking at social service, medical, mental health contacts.
- Some screenings at homeless/runaway programs.
- Primary contact with sex trafficking victims is law enforcement.



Emerging Issues

North Dakota oil boom

<http://www.marieclaire.com/culture/a15466/sex-trafficking-north-dakota/>



Current ASU STIR Research With Sex Trafficking Victims

- Youth Experiences Survey (2014, 2015, 2016; 2017 forthcoming).
- Sex Trafficking Awareness and Recovery Group at Phoenix Prostitution Diversion Program.



Previous Research

- According to Pierce and Koepplinger (2011), Native American (NA) women are the most frequent victims of physical and sexual violence in the U.S. when compared to other racial and ethnic groups.
- Four research studies have looked at NA women and girls, all in Minnesota.



Koepplinger and Pierce (2009)

- Explored four databases of American Indian (AI) and AN women in Minnesota.
 - 40% of women reported some involvement in commercial sexual exploitation.
 - 27% of women reported some involvement in what was defined as sex trafficking by the state of Minnesota.



Pierce and Koepplinger (2011)

- Contributing factors in why AI and AN women and girls were targeted by sex traffickers:
 - Poverty
 - Generational trauma
 - Violence and victimization
 - Depression and mental illness
 - Suicide
 - Drug and alcohol abuse
 - Child abuse
- Lacking “cultural safety” as a critical factor in healing, defined as an environment that is spiritually, socially, emotionally, and physically safe.



Farley et al. (2011) *Garden of Truth*

- Interviewed 105 AI and AN women in Minnesota.
- Explored the experiences that led to their sexual exploitation, their sex trafficking experiences, and the effect of the sex trafficking on their ability to heal.
- Reported life histories:
 - 80% had experienced sexual abuse.
 - 2/3 had a member of their family attend a state run boarding school for AI persons.
 - 92% had been raped.
 - 98% had been homeless.
 - 80% had received some substance abuse treatment.
 - 52% had a PTSD diagnosis.



Pierce (2012)

- Study exploring the experiences of high-risk American Indian adolescent girls in Minnesota.
- Minnesota Indian Women's Resource Center.
- Roundtables:
 - Findings about “finesse” and use of violence in recruitment and retention of victims.
 - Runaway, throwaway, and homeless adolescents were most vulnerable.
 - Those who had dropped out of school and had no job skills were targeted by traffickers.



Pierce (2012)

- N = 58 American Indian high-risk and sex-trafficked adolescent girls.
- 26% had a family member involved in prostitution.
- 41% had one or more friends involved in prostitution.
- 31% personally knew a pimp.



No Published Research in Arizona

- For services and previous research on sex trafficking, AI and AN persons are mixed in with all other racial and ethnic groups of known sex- trafficked/prostituted persons.
- Law enforcement and federal prosecutors report no cases coming from tribal land.
- It is not clear if AI persons in Arizona have unique experiences or treatment needs.
- Anecdotal evidence from 11 years of working with sex- trafficked clients and trainings with tribal law enforcement, medical, and mental health providers.



Why Should We Study the Sex Trafficking Experiences of American Indian Persons in Arizona?

- 2017 Navajo Nation Tribal Law Against Human Trafficking.
- 22 Registered tribes in Arizona including the two largest in the United States (Navajo and Tohono O'odham).
- Nearly 300,000 American Indian persons living in Arizona.
- Known vulnerabilities.



Sex Trafficking and American Indian Persons: Phoenix Arizona, Pilot Study

- ASU IRB approved this study.
- Persons arrested by the City of Phoenix Police Department for prostitution or an escort violation (not having an escort license) are eligible for the City of Phoenix Prostitution Diversion (PPD) Program.
- PPD program description.
- No tribal affiliation was asked.



Pilot Study

- Surveys were completed from January 2011 through May 2017 by 840 adults participating in the DIGNITY Prostitution Diversion program.
- N =37 (4.4%) of the respondents identified as American Indian.
- Ages:
 - Ranged from 18 to 52, average of 29.8 years.
- Gender:
 - 34 female, 2 male, 1 both genders.



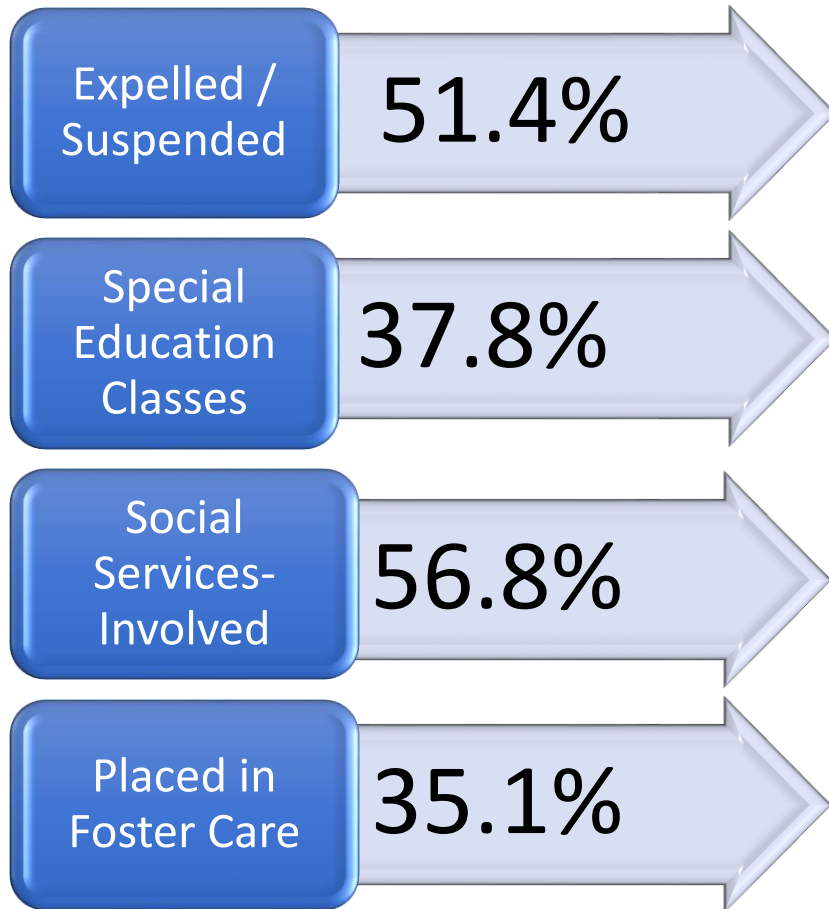


Survey Completed at Diversion Intake

- Academic history
- Social history
- Self-harm behaviors
- Alcohol and drug use
- Information about sex exchange
- Age of first sex exchange
- Sex-selling situations
- Involvement in sexual exploitation/pathways
- Readiness to leave situation
- Barriers to exiting



Academic and Social Service History



Youngest age for foster care placement was 0, oldest age was 16 years (average age 8.6 years old).



Family History

Respondents reported having:

0-11 Children

0-11 Siblings



45.9% reported their parents were never married.

75.8% had a family member in jail.

58.3% reported parent, step-parent, or foster parent had a problem with alcohol/drugs.

51.4% witnessed someone in the home doing drugs.

56.8% ran away from home before age 18.

26.5% reported a family member involved with the sex industry.



Abuse Experiences

62.2%

- Molested as a child.

Youngest age reported for molestation was as an infant.

44.4%

- Raped before age 18.

Youngest age reported for rape was 4 years old.

28.6%

- Experienced emotional abuse as a child.

13.5%

- Food had been withheld as punishment.

10.8%

- Had someone do something to them on purpose to make them bleed.



Self-Harm Behaviors

45.9% said yes to harming self in anyway.

37.5% said yes to engaging in risk-taking behaviors.

21.6% engaged in bingeing/purging behaviors.

40.6% engaged in cutting/self-mutilation.

34.4% responded yes to not eating for long periods of time.

43.2% attempted suicide.

12.5% Have been involved with a gang.

53.1% engaged in sex with a stranger.



Alcohol and Drugs

54.3%
believe
they are
addicted to
alcohol or
drugs.

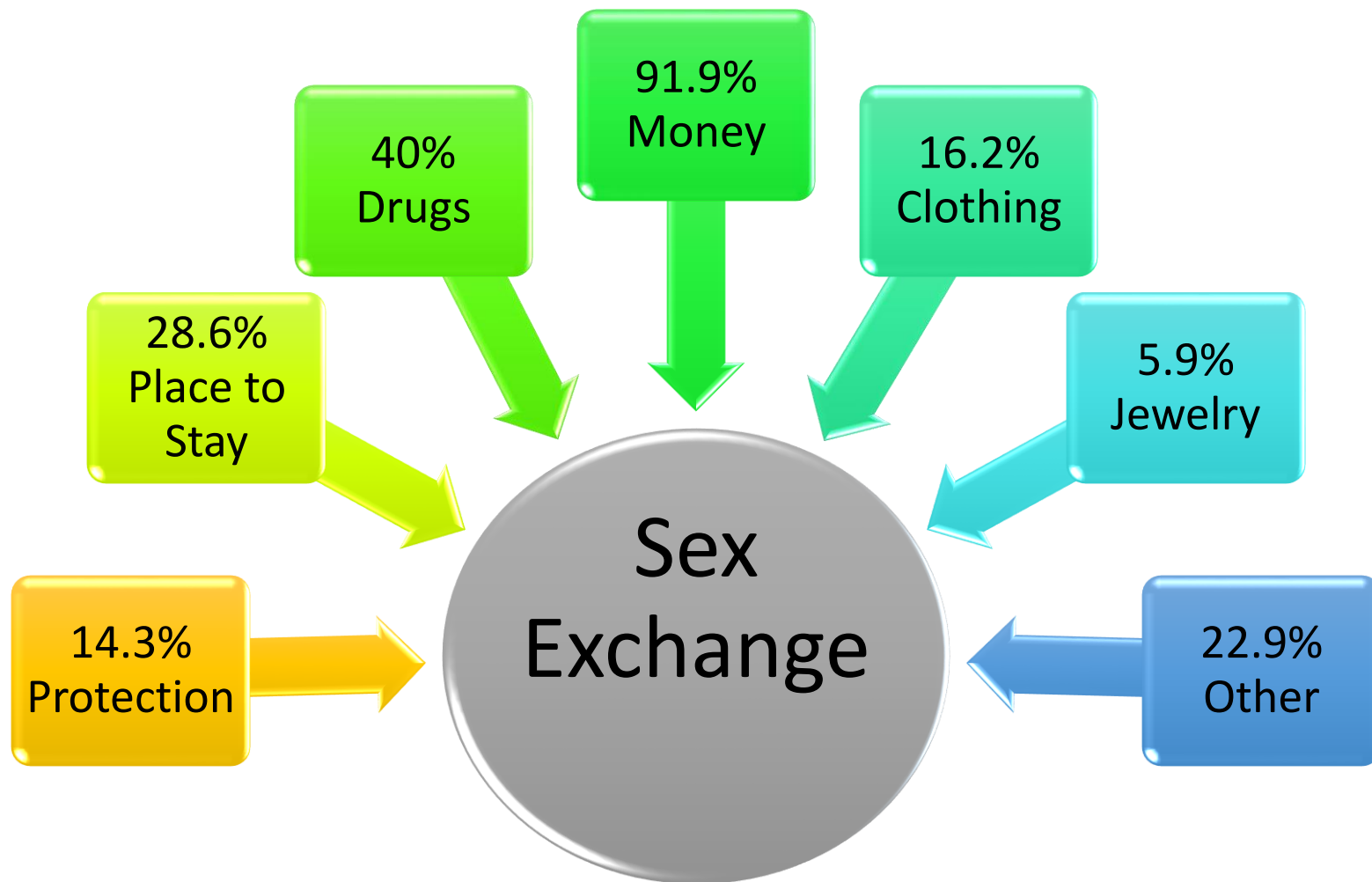
88.6% had
at some
point in
their life
taken drugs.

50% believe
they drink
alcohol
excessively.





Exchange of Sex for Something of Value





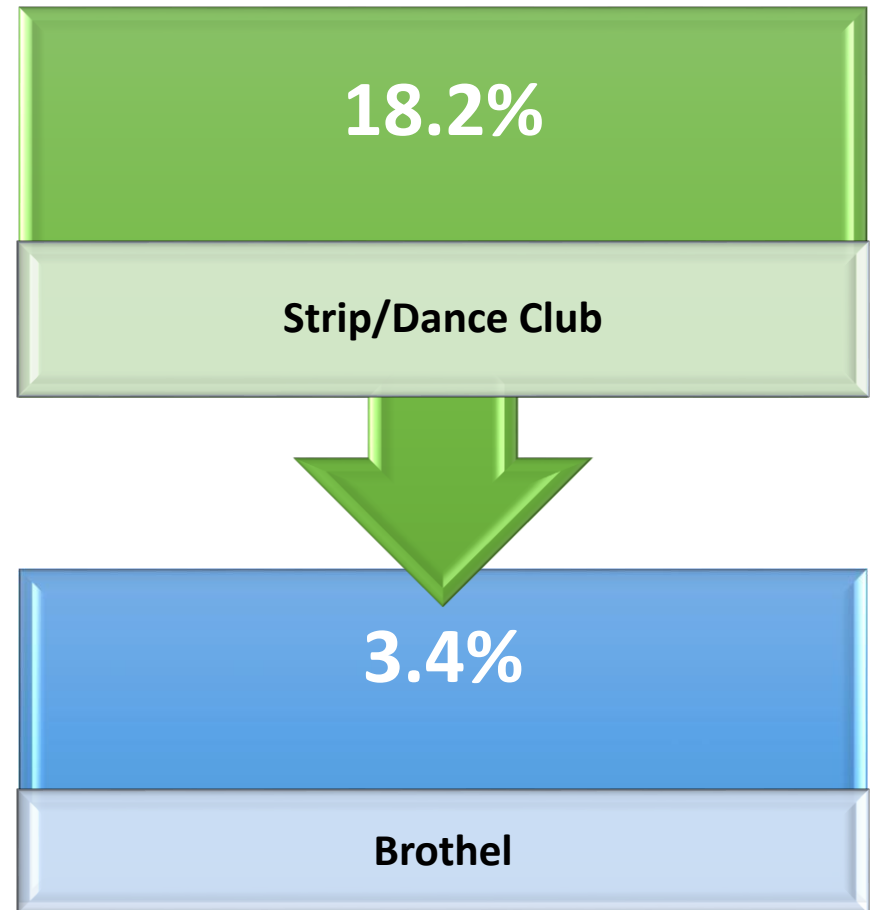
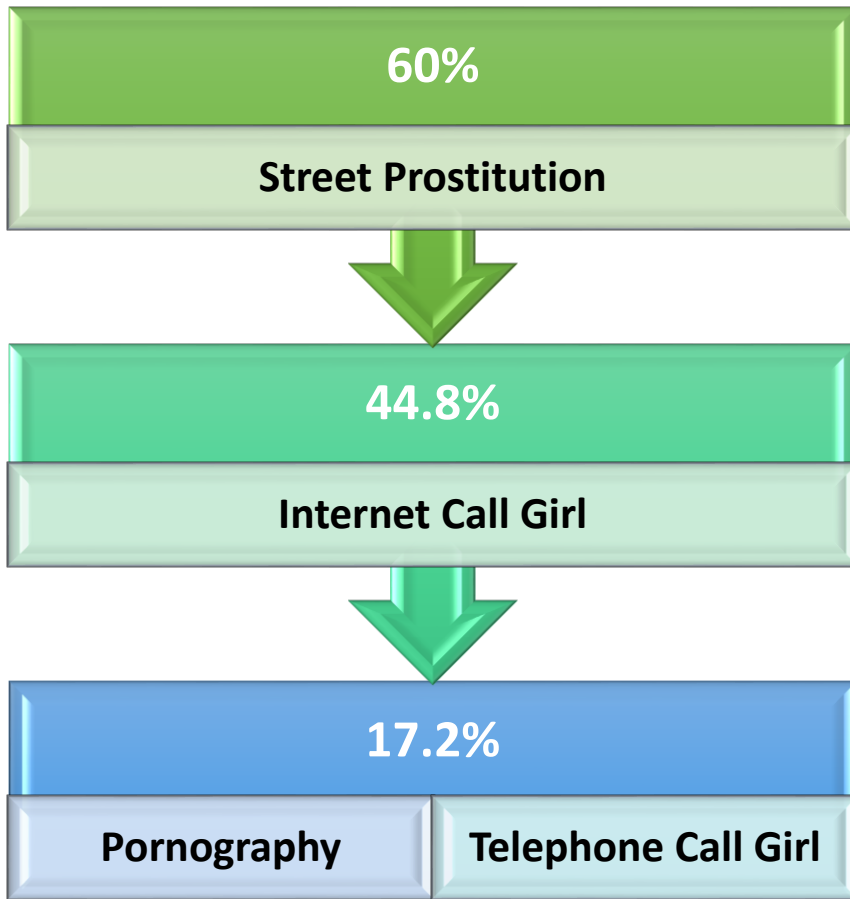
Age and Sex Selling



- When asked if they had ever exchanged sex for something of value, 43.2% (n =16) were under 18 (M =15.6 years) the first time this happened.
- The youngest age reported was 13 years old.
- The oldest age reported was 42 years old.



Sex Selling





Trauma Symptom Inventory (Briere 1995)

TSI Subscale	# Clinically Significant	% of total group
Anxious Arousal	7	18.9%
Depression	9	24.3%
Anger/Irritability	10	27%
Intrusive Experiences	14	37.8%
Defensive Avoidance	13	35.1%
Dissociation	15	40.5%
Sexual Concerns	11	29.7%
Dysfunctional Sexual Behavior	13	35.1%
Impaired Self-Reference	13	35.1%
Tension Reduction Behavior	10	27%



University of Rhode Island Change Assessment Scale (URICA)

- Pre-contemplation 10 27%
- Contemplation 16 43.2%
- Preparation 11 29.7%



Sex Traffickers/Pimps

29.7% reported comments about their trafficker:

- “I didn’t like it cause I was never given what I wanted with the money.”
- “He was lazy.”
- “It was a very bad situation.”
- “My pimp used to be my boyfriend. It was his idea for me to prostitute on the streets. He used to abuse me, hit me around if I didn’t do what he told me to do. He always made me work every night.”
- “It was really hard, you can never rest or sleep until you have his money.”



Comment About Trafficker/Pimp

“My pimp used to be my boyfriend. When he found out I lost my job, he came up with the idea of me working with prostitutes on the street and making money everyday. He used to abuse me, hit me around if I didn’t do what I was told to do. He always made me work every night.”



How Did You Get Involved (entry)?

A Friend

- “A friend introduced me to it”
- “A friend was doing it. I wanted to make some extra money so I decided to try it.”

Economics

- “... I had lost my job and I had no place to live. I didn’t have no money to support myself, keep myself alive. I did it cause I needed a place to rest my head...”
- “Lived on the streets, had no other choice. The man I was with made no money so I had to provide for us.”

Force, Fraud, Coercion

- “My boyfriend. He’s very manipulative with his words, and he very quickly made me feel worthless and made me feel like I couldn’t do anything so he pushed me in that direction. Saying it was my way to help out to pay bills.”

Strip Club

- “Bartending and dancing eventually became an opportunity to escort.”
- “Started working at the strip club and wanted more money. Talked to a few of the girls I worked with and decided to get more money.”



Entry (continued)

Avoid Jail

- “I was homeless, had a warrant in Alaska and was 18 years old. I didn’t want to go to jail.”

Pimp/
Boyfriend

- “My boyfriend, he is very manipulating with his words and he very quickly over time made me feel worthless and made me feel like I couldn’t do anything so he pushed me in to that direction. Saying it was my way to help out and pay bills. I went along with it to make him happy with me.”

Drugs/
Alcohol

- “I needed a place to lay my head and to get the drugs I needed.”
- “My addiction to drugs and alcohol led me to prostitution.”

Family

- “My Dad told me to go make his money.”
- “My sister taught me.”



Vulnerabilities

People

- Friends
- Family members
- Pimps
- Boyfriends

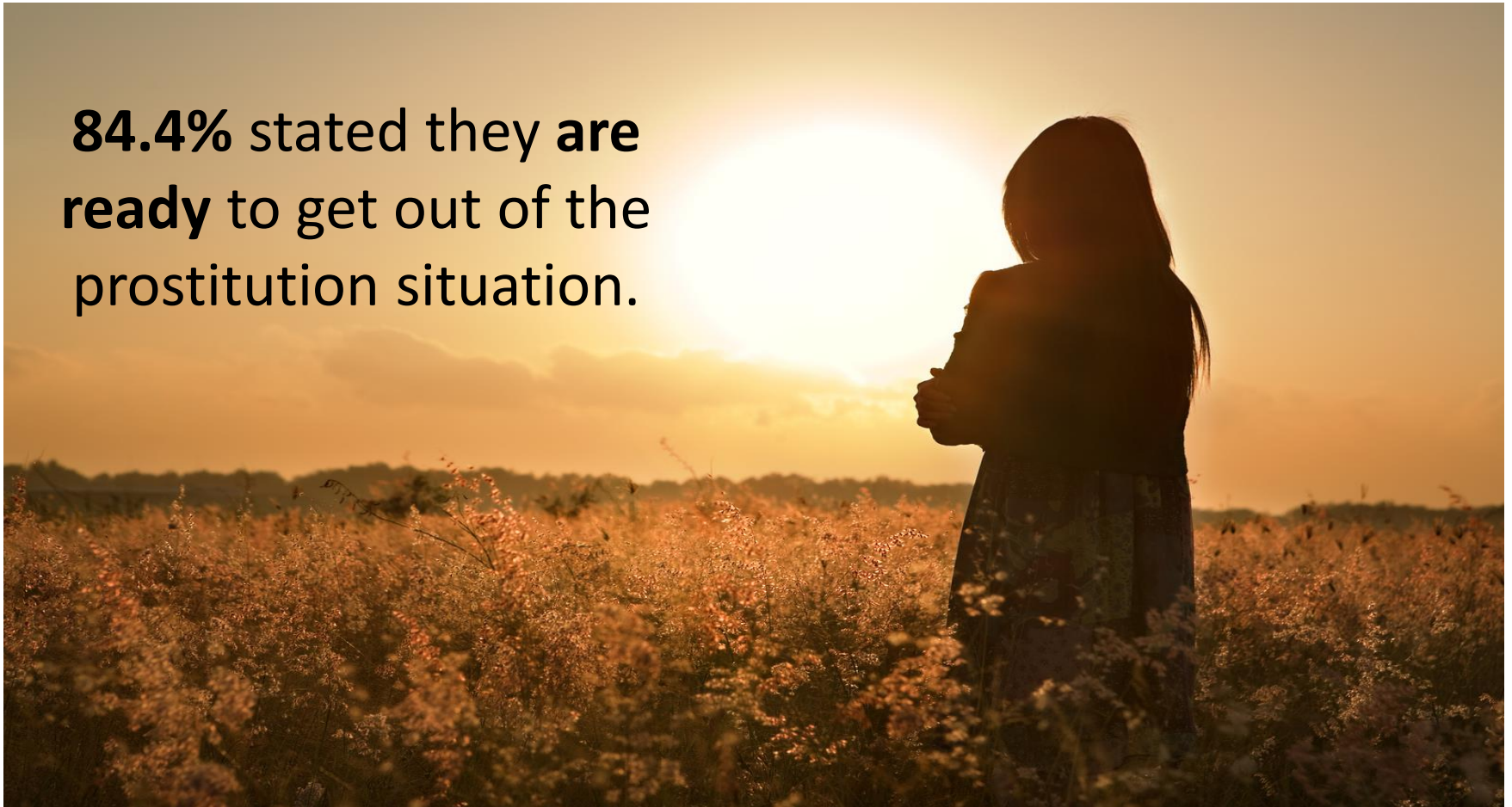
Situations

- Addicted to alcohol/drugs
- Previous abuse
- Needed money
- Loss
- Trauma symptoms
- Motivation to change



Ready To Leave

84.4% stated they are **ready** to get out of the prostitution situation.





What Prevents You From Leaving?

“Nowhere to live.
Feel a **lack of support.**”



“No other **income.**”
“Finding a **job.**”

“I need the **money**, I can't find another **job**.
Once I **get back to school** or find another job, I **will stop** doing this.”

“Sometimes making a **right way of living** doesn't always keep you **sheltered.**”



What Has Led to the Decision To Leave?

“Because I am **tired of it** and I’m not only hurting myself but family and friends who care about me, plus I just want to now go and live a **normal life again**. Making money the right way.”

“I have **nothing** to show for my life. **I want something better.**”

“I never wanted this life. It’s **risky and scary** and I **love living** and I want to continue my **life successfully.**”

“Decided **college could be better** for a **job** and getting money.”





What We Don't Know:

- Are these respondents unique when compared to the other participants in the DIGNITY Diversion program?
- Do these respondents have specific treatment needs?
- Are there unique ways of supporting their exiting experiences?
- Where is the sex trafficking being initiated?
- Tribal land or urban setting (where arrested)?
- How are casinos involved?
- Is technology/Internet being used as part of the recruitment and exploitation of these victims?



References

- Farley, M., Matthews, N., Deer, S., Lopez, G., Stark, C., & Hudon, E. (2011). Garden of truth: the prostitution and trafficking of native women in Minnesota. National Indigenous Women's Resource Center.
<http://www.niwrc.org/resources/garden-truth-prostitution-and-trafficking-native-women-minnesota>
- Pierce, A. (2012). American Indian adolescent girls: Vulnerabilities to sex trafficking, intervention strategies. *American Indian and Alaskan Native Mental Health Research: The Journal of the National Center*, 19, 37-56.
- Pierce, A., & Koepplinger, S. (2011, October). New language, old problem: Sex trafficking of American Indian women and children. Harrisburg, PA: VAWnet, a project of the National Resource Center on Domestic Violence. Retrieved from <http://www.vawnet.org>
- Koepplinger, & Pierce, A. (2009). Shattered Hearts: The Commercial Sexual Exploitation of American Indian Girls and Women in Minnesota. *The Minnesota American Indian*. Retrieved from <http://indianlaw.org/sites/default/files/shattered%20hearts%20report.pdf>



Presenter Q & A



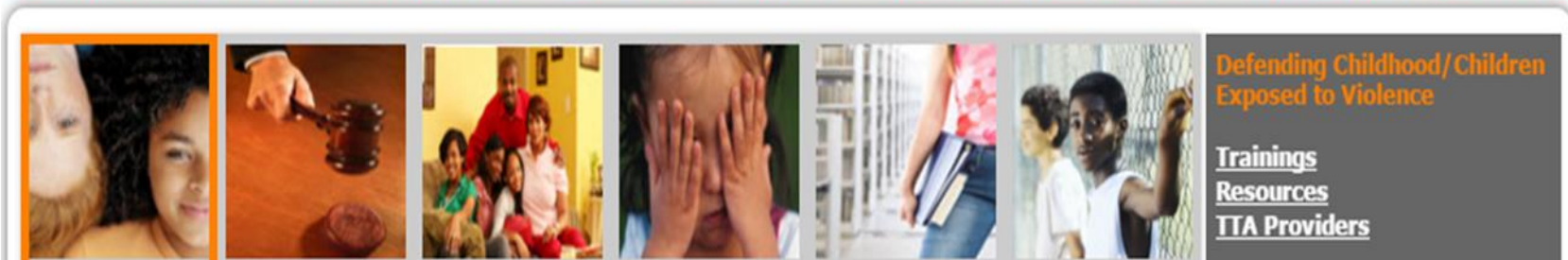
Dominique Roe-Sepowitz, MSW, Ph.D.
Associate Professor, Director,
Office of Sex Trafficking Intervention Research
Arizona State University



Webinars on OJJDP's Online University

OJJDP Online University

Offering cost-effective, cutting edge, on-demand training for the juvenile justice and delinquency prevention field



This event will be archived on OJJDP's Online University.

For the audio recording and support materials,

visit www.ojjdpou.org



OJJDP's National Training and Technical Assistance Center (NTTAC)

www.nttac.org

Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention

www.ojjdp.gov

 [LIKE Us On Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/ojdp) @ **OJJDPTTA**

Learn About Upcoming Trainings and Additional Resources

www.facebook.com/ojdp

National Criminal Justice Training Center

<https://ncjtc.fvvc.edu/>



*Points of view or opinions
expressed in this webinar are
those of the presenter(s) and do
not necessarily represent the
official position or policies of OJJDP
or the U.S. Department of Justice.*



Online Evaluation



Please click on the link below to complete the online evaluation:

https://fvtc.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_bd9nqZfrgg3XNNr

Thank you!